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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Somalia, Libya Sanctions

NC2010152293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed the Arab League's appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's efforts to contain and end the deteriorating situation in Somalia, referring to the meeting that was recently held between President Mubarak and a number of senior officials led by the UN secretary general.

In an interview with the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, which will be published Friday [22 October], Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized the Arab League's interest in Somalia's national unity and territorial integrity and in the resumption of the dialogue among the Somalia factions.

The Arab League secretary general explained that the key to a solution is in the hands of the Somali leaders and not in the those of the United Nations, the United States, the OAU, or the Arab League. He said: If the Somali leaders feel that what has happened is enough and the time has come for them to meet, reach an understanding, cooperate, respond to the call of the human conscience, put aside their personal disputes, and consider Somalia's interests, this is what we all want.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the time has come to achieve inter-Arab reconciliation, noting that he has received positive responses from the Arab leaders about achieving this goal. He affirmed that the Arab nation exists and will exist in dignity irrespective of the crises and differences that could take place.

He noted the Arab League's interest in a permanent seat for the Arab states in the UN Security Council, adding that this matter is being discussed by the Arab permanent representatives at the Arab League.

Regarding the developments in the Libyan-Western crisis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained that contacts are continuing to avoid an escalation of the sanctions against Libya.

'Abd-al-Majid Describes Meeting With 'Arafat

NC2410122793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 24 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that he told Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during their meeting last night that the League wishes to see progress on all the tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunisia, Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid said that he and 'Arafat discussed the practical steps needed to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles and the Palestinian efforts during the coming phase. The Arab League secretary general described the agreement as an important step toward achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that 'Arafat was satisfied with the outcome of his talks in Paris and the cooperative attitude of the French officials he met. The secretary general said that he and 'Arafat reviewed Arab-European relations and Europe's role in assisting the Palestinians. He added that 'Arafat plans to visit the United Kingdom and Belgium in the near future.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discloses Attempt on al-Husayni's Life

JN2610074093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 24

[By Samir al-Maqdisi]

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has revealed that Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has been the target of an abortive assassination attempt. This was disclosed by 'Arafat while receiving condolences on the death of As'ad al-Saftawi, a Fatah leader in Gaza, who was assassinated last week. 'Arafat said that it had been decided not to make public the attempt on al-Husayni's life. However, he did not say how and when the attempt took place.

President 'Arafat warned that there is a scheme targeting the lives of Palestinian leaders. He said that it is necessary to take all necessary precautions. He called for closing ranks and for creative discipline within the revolution.

'Arafat described As'ad al-Saftawi as a friend and Fatah leader who believed in peace and national unity.

He noted that he had met with al-Saftawi in Tunis three times this year. He described the killers of al-Saftawi and his two comrades Sha'ban and Kuhayl [two Gaza figures assassinated earlier] as night bats.

Meanwhile, informed Palestinian sources said that the Palestinian general prosecution office has acquitted a number of bodyguards charged with planning for the assassination of Palestinian officials. The charges were found to be based on a false report.

He said that the bodyguards will be released within the next 48 hours and will be immediately reinstated.

'Arafat Wants Palestinian State for Exiles

JN2610093193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Doha, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said that what the PLO and Israel have agreed on is the beginning of what will lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH, the Palestinian president said that there are some issues

outstanding between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, such as the fate of the Israeli settlements, the boundaries, and (?Jerusalem). He added that these issues cannot be solved all at once. Therefore, he said, they have been delayed until final status negotiations are held.

'Arafat said that the file of settling the Palestinians outside their homeland has been finally closed, and that the Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be home for all Palestinians in exile.

He added that a formula for the participation of Jerusalem residents in the self-rule authority elections in terms of voting and nomination has been arrived at. He said that another formula on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an indivisible regional entity has been agreed on. He noted that the agreement mentions the Palestinian people's legitimate political and national rights, and that the aspired settlement aims at implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and establishing a link between the interim and final statuses.

'Arafat Views Opposition, Prospects for Accord

PM2510171293 Paris LE FIGARO in French 22 Oct 93 p 3

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Claude Lorieux in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] You have chosen France for your first visit to an EEC country since the signing of the Washington agreement 13 September. Why?

['Arafat] We cannot forget the fact that from the beginning, France has constantly supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. I respect President Mitterrand as a man of principle. France has given us moral, economic, and diplomatic support within the EEC and the United Nations. Nor do I forget the fact that the French Army took part in the multilateral force during the siege of Beirut. Your soldiers helped evacuate the leaders of the PLO and its forces.

[Lorieux] Are you counting on French financial assistance in order to ensure that the peace process succeeds?

['Arafat] I intend to ask for a great deal from France. In several spheres.

[Lorieux] On the eve of your first visit to France, in May 1989, I asked you: "Where will you be sleeping tonight?" On security grounds, you did not reply. Today I feel like asking you: "When do you get some sleep?"

['Arafat] That is indeed the problem: When to sleep? Yesterday, after a session of the PLO Executive Committee, I had two meetings with Dennis Ross, President Clinton's special envoy, before making a nighttime return trip to Cairo. I'm not going to say what time I went to bed! I am working at least 18 hours a day.

[Lorieux] Can you take the pace?

['Arafat] I'm used to it. But the pace has quickened recently.

[Lorieux] Have seven months of secret talks with the Israelis and two one-on-one meetings with Yitzhaq Rabin changed your opinion of the Israelis?

['Arafat] You seem to forget that I have many Israeli friends. I have friends in the "Peace Now" movement, and also in parties like the Meretz, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and RAKAH [New Communist List] parties. I have friends in Rabin's Labor Party and even in Shamir's Likud. Remember that for years, we have been seeking a peaceful solution to the problem that comes between us, between us and the Israelis. I will mention a few stages in our quest for peace. In 1974, we announced that we were ready to establish our "Palestinian national authority" over any portion of territory from which the Israelis might withdraw. In 1988, at the UN General Assembly in Geneva, I suggested creating two states, one Jewish and one Arab, on the soil of Palestine. Furthermore, I have very often used the expression "the peace of the brave" which de Gaulle used in addressing the Algerians.

[Lorieux] Yitzhaq Rabin has taken you at your word...

['Arafat] Yes, we are negotiating "the peace of the brave."

[Lorieux] You have twice met the Israeli prime minister. What kind of man is he?

['Arafat] He speaks with clarity. He knows what he wants. And if he makes a pledge, he keeps his word.

[Lorieux] On 10 October in Damascus 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the Oslo agreement announced the convening of a "general national congress." What are you going to do to counter them?

['Arafat] We are a democratic organization. Let us keep to the rules of democracy. The majority respects the view of the minority. But the minority must accept and implement the decisions of the majority. At its last session our Central Council approved the Oslo agreement. The majority voted for it, but there was opposition.

[Lorieux] You are well aware that the Palestinian groups in Damascus regard this vote as meaningless!

['Arafat] I cannot prevent the opposition from freely and openly saying what it thinks. Once again, this is democracy. We have an opposition. The Israelis, too, have an opposition. You have one in France as well. I know there is no unanimity about the Maastricht Treaty. But there is one thing that has to be noted: Among the population in the occupied territories there is a deep-seated movement in favor of the 13 September agreement. Its strength has surprised everyone who was defending the document agreed in Oslo. Personally, I was expecting powerful support from the population of the occupied territories. But I did not expect so much support. I was going to say such a "groundswell" in favor of the agreement between Israel and the PLO.

[Lorieux] The population of the occupied territories is expecting its living conditions to change swiftly...

['Arafat] Naturally. That is why we are insisting that the text signed in Washington 13 September is applied faithfully, swiftly, and visibly on the ground. People must feel evolution and change. But don't forget that very soon, for the first time, the Palestinian flag will be flying over the first liberated Palestinian soil.

[Lorieux] Are you encouraged by the course of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations that have been taking place in recent days in Cairo and Taba?

['Arafat] Not yet. There are some indications. But the Israelis have released only one prisoner. He was the oldest of them.

[Lorieux] What happened in Tunis during the Central Council session? Your police reportedly searched the offices of Hani al-Hasan, one of the co-founders of Fatah, and made arrests among the bodyguards of figures close to you.

['Arafat] No, no, and no. These are lies. Everything that happened was purely routine. It was a question of security measures such as are taken from time to time.

[Lorieux] Nevertheless, observing from afar, one gained a very different impression.

['Arafat] They exaggerate everything. Moreover, Hani al-Hasan was present at the meeting of the Palestinian leadership. I had two breakfasts with him.

[Lorieux] 'Isam Sartawi, one of the first architects of Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, was assassinated in 1981 in Lisbon by the Abu Nidal group. The Oslo talks and the 'Arafat-Begin [as published] handshake of 13 September are very like posthumous revenge for this pioneer of peace.

['Arafat] Sartawi was, indeed, a pioneer. But he was not acting off his own bat, he was carrying out the orders of the Palestinian leadership. I would have liked him to be here today to see the realization of his wishes and of what he was fighting for.

[Lorieux] Do you think that one explanation of the commitment to peace of President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, King Husayn of Jordan, and also you yourself is age and your state of health? Do you all feel a sense of urgency about settling your region's problems?

['Arafat] King Husayn has regained his health. But it goes without saying that we are going through a difficult phase. We are living through a crucial period of the crisis in the Near East, which is still the most important strategic region in the world. The Near East is at the point where three continents meet: Europe, Asia, and Africa. This region contains the world's biggest oil reserves and is politically sensitive. Consequently everyone working to resolve this problem is struggling and laboring. I work day and night. I am sure the same can be said of the other political leaders involved.

[Lorieux] You often meet with the Arab leaders. Do you have the impression that they are motivated not only by the urgency of the region's problems, but by their own future?

['Arafat] No, I do not have that impression. What matters is the importance of the problems and the weight of responsibilities. These are responsibilities that must be assumed in the face of history.

[Lorieux] President al-Asad and King Husayn were furious when you announced the accord concluded in secret in Oslo with the Israelis...

['Arafat] That is not true as regards King Husayn. He reacted in that way because he had not been properly informed about the accord. You must know that I have a very good relationship with the Jordanian monarch. Only yesterday he sent me a message. It is my habit to telephone him from time to time. The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee is working well. We maintain a special relationship with Jordan. We plan to create a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation at a later stage, if that is the will of the two peoples.

[Lorieux] Okay. But you admit that those two countries, Syria and Jordan, reacted angrily to the Oslo accord.

['Arafat] The Syrian Government, yes. But I do not understand why. In fact, the Palestinians went to the Madrid peace conference in October 1991 in order to conclude a transitional agreement with Israel or, if you prefer, to define an interim period of autonomy. The others, that is, the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian Governments, had the aim of negotiating a definitive solution to the dispute provoked by the occupation of part of their territory by the Israeli Army. Well, the Oslo accord only offers a transitional, not a definitive, solution to the Palestinian problem. So it is in accordance with the Madrid plan. Why the surprise? The Syrians have no reason to be worried. The document signed in Washington on 13 September has only added one thing: the total withdrawal of the Israelis from Gaza and Jericho. The interim period continues for the rest of the occupied territories. So I do not understand the Syrians' reaction.

[Lorieux] Maybe they have not completely renounced the hope of controlling the Palestinian resistance?

['Arafat] That much is obvious. We fought for years to be able to make our decisions independently. We paid a very high price to achieve this. In this context, we must thank our Tunisian brothers, and in particular, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. They gave us all the facilities to enable us to make our decisions freely.

[Lorieux] Did you not have the same freedom of movement in other Arab countries?

['Arafat] That is not what I meant. We receive the full support of the governments of Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Yemen, Sudan, and Jordan. It is thanks to this continuing support from our Arab brothers that we have been able to continue our struggle.

[Lorieux] I would like to ask you about your childhood. When, and in what circumstances, did the young Yasir

'Arafat become aware of the existence of the State of Israel? Or of what you doubters called at that time the "Palestinian entity"?

['Arafat] My first memories go back earlier than that. I remember when the British soldiers were searching Arab homes. They searched the house of the uncle I lived with in Jerusalem. I was a small child. But I did not forget these impressions. It was later, when I was a student in Cairo, that I left school to join the resistance. That was in 1947-1948. I was very young. I was 17.

[Lorieux] Did any one of your relatives, in particular, contribute to your political awakening?

['Arafat] All my family played a part. My mother's family and my father's. I was born in a very hot political spot!

[Lorieux] Have you ever thought of retiring?

['Arafat] Maybe. If my compatriots do not elect me, I will retire. But, in fact, it will not be retirement. I will resume my trade as an engineer.

[Lorieux] And where will you set yourself up?

['Arafat] In Jerusalem. God willing!

'Arafat Discusses Peace Process, Arab Unity

BR2101134993 Brussels KNACK in Dutch 20-26 Oct pp 148-149, 152-153

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Sus van Elzen in Tunis; date not given: "A Man of Peace"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Arafat] Naim Khader, yes [former PLO representative in Brussels]. They killed him [in 1981] because he was successful in his line. Like Isam al-Sartawi, Ezedin Kalak, Sa'id Hammami. They were all killed for the political line that we had set out right in the beginning. Perhaps you do not know, but right from the beginning we offered various solutions. Political solutions. First, at the international parliamentary conference in Cairo in 1969. But the Israelis did not want that. Later we said that we would base the Palestinian national authority on any part of Palestine from which the Israelis would withdraw. We took part in the Geneva conference, as you know, and there was a joint communique with the Egyptian foreign minister and American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, as a united Arab delegation including PLO representation, in Geneva. But the Israelis did not want that either.

Later still, in 1988, we came with our peace initiative, in the name of the Palestinian people, before the UN General Assembly. And we started a dialogue with the U.S. Administration. And afterwards we accepted Egypt's 10 points, which the Israelis rejected, and the five points of Mr. Baker, which were also rejected by the Israelis. And then, after the Gulf crisis, we agreed to President Bush's initiative. Our PNC [Palestine National Council] agreed to go to Madrid, despite the very poor conditions which were devised for us. Precisely because we were searching for real peace, for our children, and the mass of our people, who are suffering under the occupation day and night.

[Van Elzen] And now it has happened. The mutual recognition of the PLO and Israel brought an end to the slogan "a land without a people for a people without a land." Now that is over.

['Arafat] Yes.

[Van Elzen] But you have also taken a risk. You have recognized Israel, and in return you have received a principle, a right. But you do not have a state.

['Arafat] No, for the first time we have ... liberated land. In Gaza and Jericho to start with. And at the same Palestinian self-determination will start for a period of three to five years in the rest of the country. And what was agreed there is no joke. It was not settled in the dark or behind closed doors. It is an international event, which means with the support of the entire international community. We were not alone, we have witnesses. And not just witnesses, also guarantees. From the Americans and Russians, who also signed, and the others who were also there, and celebrated the signing too. They too were more than simple witnesses, they have a moral responsibility, and that is our guarantee.

[Van Elzen] So you have not gained a sudden faith in Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Arafat] You see, a very important signal has been given. Likud did not manage to organize big demonstrations of its supporters. Only the settlers demonstrated. While, on our side, a flood of people supported the agreements. That is very important.

[Van Elzen] That is true, but what happens if the following elections in Israel put Likud or an antipeace bloc back in power?

['Arafat] This agreement does not just belong to the Palestinians and Israelis. Now it belongs to the whole world. Anyone who tries to put obstacles in the way of the peace process will have to deal with the whole world! And for your information, our long march was not easy, it was not a picnic. A long march with all the obstacles and difficulties, that was part of it. And do not forget that we went to Madrid when Likud was in power.

[Van Elzen] Agreed, but Madrid produced nothing under Likud.

['Arafat] Even with Rabin, Madrid produced nothing, it was the short cuts which produced results.

[Van Elzen] What do you say to people who state: Perhaps you have actually achieved something, but you have broken Arab unity?

['Arafat] That is incorrect. You are repeating the ugly phrases of a certain opposition in Iran and elsewhere. So I am not in a position to give an answer, because it is a silly slogan whose only goal is to cause problems. I do not see how making peace could divide the Arab world. Why did the Camp David agreements not divide the Arabs? Why

have the Jordanians not divided the Arabs too, since they signed the agreement a week after me? And think of the meeting of Arab League ministers, who answered by saying that they found this agreement a very important step toward realizing true peace in the region. That is enough. That is not my slogan, that is an Arab slogan. The answer of the Arab states, together with the Arab League. The same was said on the Islamic level, at the Islamic conference, and by the coordination bureau of the caucus of nonaligned countries ... by the EC and EFTA ... and by the Chinese, the Japanese, the Canadians, the Scandinavians.

[Van Elzen] So in your view there is no danger that these people could blow up the peace process?

['Arafat] No one can blow this up. No one. They will try, yes, and I know, too, that they are giving away money, not only to damage the peace process, but also to prepare murders. That is part of the dangerous game which they are playing. They have done that in the past, and they will do it in the future.

But have I stopped them going to Jerusalem, these gentlemen who want to reject peace? Have I stopped them driving to Jerusalem in their tanks? Or flying to Tel Aviv in their planes? Slogans, slogans, slogans, while our people are suffering deprivation. When I was in the siege of Beirut, I was alone, with my Lebanese brothers. Alone for 88 days! And not one of all these gentlemen who shout big slogans came to help us. Or to fight with us. Seventy-two thousand Palestinians and Lebanese died or were wounded there. And the same happened at the siege of Tripoli a year later. Some 11,000 dead and wounded. They come with slogans to profit from our tragedy. No more than that. Because peace is sorely needed by more than just the Palestinians: by the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Israelis, the international community. Sorely needed. It is extremely important for everyone to have stability in this region, otherwise we will have total confusion and Balkanization.

[Van Elzen] You are going to make a state: Gaza, the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem. Those are three very different places with different populations.

['Arafat] One people, one people.

[Van Elzen] Of course, they are all Palestinians. But with big sociological differences. All those refugees in Gaza.

['Arafat] But we are used to that! That is how we have achieved a unique revolution: a state and a revolution. And right from the start we have taken responsibility for education, universities, hospitals, social affairs, trade unions, everything. We were the first liberation movement in the world to get observer status in the United Nations.

[Van Elzen] Wonderful. But are you not worried that it is getting too complicated?

['Arafat] But no! This is not some simple local struggle, it is more than that. It is the crux of the whole conflict in the Middle East. That is why it is so complicated.

[Van Elzen] The PLO, for example, which is soon to transform itself, operates from Tunis. You also have a leadership in Jerusalem; and local leaderships exist in the rest of the occupied territories. Does that not pose coordination problems?

['Arafat] We do not have any coordination problems while I am here in Tunis. When I am in Jericho, everything will be far easier.

[Van Elzen] When will you go to Jericho?

['Arafat] At the start of next year. Very soon.

[Van Elzen] Will you stay there?

['Arafat] I hope so. In Gaza, or Jericho. And later in Jerusalem, East Jerusalem. Do not forget that I am now the president of the Palestinian National Authority. That is the first authority established on the first piece of free Palestinian land.

[Van Elzen] A sort of government?

['Arafat] It is a sort of government, yes. But because part of the land will still remain under this Palestinian interim self-determination, where some Israeli troops will also remain, we use the term "National Authority."

[Van Elzen] And then there is the financing of the plan. On 1 October there was a meeting about this in Washington. What do you think of the results?

['Arafat] Look, we owe President Clinton our thanks because he invited donors to the meeting early this month in Washington. We were promised around $2.2 billion over five years. Thanks to the donors, but it is not enough. Why not? Because are starting from scratch. Our entire infrastructure is destroyed. That is why we need more aid: economic aid, technical aid, academic aid, moral and political aid, to make this a success. It is not an easy task; it is a very large responsibility. Everything is smashed, and we have to make a fresh start.

[Van Elzen] And the European Community?

['Arafat] I hope, as I said to [Belgian Foreign] Minister Claes a few days ago, that Europe will play an active and significant role. And besides what was already decided at the donor meeting, we are looking for bilateral cooperation with Europe on all levels. I am also very grateful for what Minister Claes has offered, and for what he is doing in his role as Belgian Foreign Minister and EC president.

[Van Elzen] Are you planning to visit Belgium?

['Arafat] Yes. Nor have we forgotten that late King Baudouin made a very important New Year's declaration about the rights of the Palestinians, just before the agreement was signed.

[Van Elzen] Under the agreement you will get autonomy in the occupied territories.

['Arafat] Not autonomy! Autonomy in a part. Pe. free land in another part. Free land in Gaza and Jericho.

[Van Elzen] After a certain time.

['Arafat] No, immediately! Gaza and Jericho will be free land immediately.

[Van Elzen] Are you going to organize elections there?

['Arafat] Elections throughout the country, including east Jerusalem. Under international auspices, we insist on that. So that we can work freely and confidently.

[Van Elzen] A parliament will develop from that. What will be the relationship between parliament and the PLO?

['Arafat] We will find a solution, don't worry, we are keeping all our options open. [passage omitted]

Taba Delegate on Talks Agenda, Release of Detainees

TA2510181293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, chairman of the confidence-building measures committee to the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Taba, by Yoni Ben-Menahem on 25 October; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ben-Menahem] Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, the Taba talks are to resume tomorrow. What is on the agenda of tomorrow's talks?

[Abu-Zayyad] There are several committees negotiating in Taba. I am in the committee negotiating the so-called confidence-buiding measures. As far as I am concerned, the basic and principal issue on the agenda is that of the detainees. As the chairman of this committee, I have drawn up a list of the classes of detainees who should be released. For example, in tomorrow's round we will discuss the next batch, including administrative detainees, all prisoners who have completed two-thirds of their sentences, and all prisoners who received sentences of less than 10 years. Afterward, there will be other batches.

The Israeli side is insisting that they be released in batches. We are ready to accept this principle. We are ready to accept the principle of gradual release, but this process must continue until all the detainees are released.

Fatah Representative Urges Release of Detainees

NC2610072693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1527 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo, has asked the Israeli Government to adhere to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles and the other agreements reached between the two sides on the release of the Palestinian detainees currently held in Israeli prisons and detention camps.

He emphasized the importance of that issue to the peace process and that the process not be hampered by individual actions. Zuhdi al-Qidrah said in a statement to MENA that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement stipulates the gradual release of all detainees without exception until an agreement is reached on full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Such an agreement is expected to be reached before 13 December 1993.

He stressed the need for Israel to adhere to the agreements reached so far on releasing the Palestinian detainees.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced today that he will not release those Palestinian detainees who are members of Hamas under the pretext that they were responsible for the death of two Israeli soldiers yesterday.

Fatah, PFLP Agree To Avoid Violence in Gaza

JN2510175093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] A Palestinian source in Jerusalem said that the Fatah Movement and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] agreed today to put an end to the acts of violence that have taken place between them in occupied Gaza over the past few days. Representatives of the two organizations met in Rafah, south Gaza, and agreed to denounce violence and not to resort to it in settling their differences.

Clashes between the two organizations began in Rafah last Friday [22 October] when a PFLP member beat a Fatah member. A PFLP member was shot at the following day, and yesterday, Sunday, Maryam Muhammad Judah, 23, cousin of the commander of the Fatah Hawks in Gaza, was killed during clashes between Fatah and PFLP activists.

The PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] issued a statement in Damascus today expressing concern over the tension prevailing in Gaza. The PFLP and DFLP called on all field commanders in Gaza to resolve all differences out of their concern for reinforcing the unity of their ranks and to direct all efforts against the occupation and the settlers.

Sha'th Denounces Murder of Israeli Soldiers in Gaza

TA2510173693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, today denounced the murder of two Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip yesterday and said that the murders committed this past week do not help the political process. The talks on the implementation of the agreement about a withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho resume in Taba tomorrow. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from Taba:

Commenting on the murder of the two Israeli reservists in the Gaza Strip, Sha'th stated in an interview with IDF Radio: I denounce the use of any type of violence at this stage of the process. Yasir 'Arafat has called on all Palestinians in the territories to cease all acts of violence, Sha'th reiterated.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] The murder of these three Palestinians as well as of the soldiers—all of these point to the way that with violence we cannot progress and that with peaceful negotiation we shall progress. So, therefore, in my mind and the mind of all our brothers here, all violence is to be condemned. [end recording]

Dr. Sha'th said he phoned Major General Shahaq to express his condolences over the murder of the two Israeli soldiers. This is a sensitive interim period, and owing to the fact that the Palestinians do not yet have a police force they cannot take action in the field to put an end to the acts of terror, Sha'th stated.

Hamas Reportedly Condemns Indian Attacks in Kashmir

NC2510193093 Paris AFP in English 1846 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Amman, Oct 25 (AFP)—A militant Palestinian group on Monday [25 October] denounced Indian army attacks last week which killed 51 Moslem demonstrators in Kashmir.

In a statement received by AFP in Amman, the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS said it "condemns the savage attack and random shooting of Moslem civilians, which constitute an attack on all the world's Moslems."

HAMAS, a powerful hardline force in the occupied territories, called on the Indian government to "stop these attacks on Moslems, lift the siege imposed on their mosque and recognise their right to self-determination."

The group is opposed to peace with Israel and claimed responsibility for killing two Israeli soldiers on Sunday.

India slapped down a curfew on Kashmir after last Friday's violence, when soldiers killed 51 demonstrators who were trying to march towards a mosque where some 50 Moslem radicals remain holed up.

Moslems have been demanding autonomy for Kashmir, the only Moslem province in predominantly Hindu India.

PLO Aide Urges Understanding of Palestinian Position

PM2510163193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 4

[Nabil Najm-al-Din report: "Abu-al-'Ala': We Are Not Negotiating Over Final Phase; Arabs Should Appreciate Palestinian Position"—quotation marks as published]

[Text] London—Ahmad Qurayʻ (Abu-al-'Ala'), director of the PLO Economic Department, has stressed that the Gaza-Jericho agreement concluded between the PLO and Israel has nothing to do with the Arab boycott of Israel or normalization of Arab relations with it, since both issues are Arab affairs, as he put it.

Abu-al-'Ala' was speaking at a news conference which he held yesterday for Arab reporters at his hotel in the British capital before leaving London this morning for Tunis.

Abu-al-'Ala' said: "We concluded an agreement concerning the transitional phase and the final phase. [sentence as published] We believe that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a success which has been achieved if we compare it with the foundations of the Madrid formula on which the Arabs agreed." He added: "I can say that the agreement has in its substance transcended these foundations, and the Arab brothers must appreciate the Palestinian position, which is not negotiating over the final phase yet." Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the Palestinian dialogue, he said that "We are seeking to hold a dialogue with all the Palestinian factions, be it Hamas or the Damascus-based factions."

Abu-al-'Ala' revealed that an independent Palestinian committee is currently conducting a dialogue with Hamas, which he said is honoring its pledge not to shed Palestinian blood by Palestinian hands. Asked whether the dialogue is being conducted via Arab capitals, he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT "yes." He stressed that the Palestinians are committed to democracy as a means of running their affairs. He urged the Palestinian factions to exercise dialogue in this historic phase. On Palestinian-Syrian relations, Abu-al-'Ala' said: "Our relations with Syria are good, and there is nothing to harm them. However, maybe the brothers in Syria were surprised by the Gaza-Jericho agreement. And the Arab brothers are talking about questions relating to the final phase, when the Palestinian position has not yet entered this phase. This is the substance of current negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel.

Abu-al-'Ala' held a meeting the day before yesterday with Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and Lady Chalker, overseas aid minister. He discussed with them progress in the negotiations between the PLO and Israel and details of the visit which President Yasir 'Arafat will make to Britain. Abu-al-'Ala' told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the visit will take place in mid-December. On the post-Gaza-Jericho agreement stage Abu-al-'Ala' said: "We are currently going through a delicate phase in our history in which we are experiencing many challenges," including: first, our ability to build and run national institutions; second, the ability to safeguard security and order there; third, the ability to absorb and manage the international aid granted to set up institutions and pursue the reconstruction process.

PLO Asks World Bank To Pay 'Martyrs' Benefits

NC2310111093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 23 Oct (MENA)—According to informed Palestinian sources, the PLO gave a memorandum to Kayokok Fizer [name as received], assistant director of the World Bank for Africa and Middle East affairs, during his (?recent) meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, asking the bank to pay monthly benefits to Palestinian martyrs' families.

The sources said the PLO had asked the bank in another memorandum to pay the salaries of its employees because it cannot pay them.

The sources said it is almost certain the World Bank will assume payments to the martyrs' families. However, the World Bank officials utterly refused to help pay the salaries and benefits of the Palestinian police, because the bank's regulations do not allow this.

Mahmud 'Abbas Interviewed on UAE Visit

PM2210143393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by Shafiq al-Asadi in Abu-Dhabi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Asadi] How did the Oslo meetings idea come about? Were there foreign pressures?

['Abbas] There were no foreign pressures, but there was a need for a backstage channel because the Washington negotiations were held under the spotlight and were open to public opinion. The parties concerned could not negotiate under these conditions. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has been talking about other secret contacts and has said that the time has not yet come for revealing these contacts. Has he told you about that or do you know anything about it?

['Abbas] With whom?

[Al-Asadi] He has not revealed that, but has he talked to you about that during the direct contacts held with him in Cairo, for instance?

['Abbas] If there were secret contacts they would have been with me, and that has not happened, which means that there were no secret contacts.

[Al-Asadi] But have there been any secret contacts between Israel and other Arab states?

['Abbas] At the Arab level? I do not know. There were rumors every now and then about contacts with one state or another, but we cannot judge the veracity of these rumors. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] Will you visit Israel? And what would be your position if Peres asked to have the Liaison Committee meetings moved to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv?

['Abbas] We will not now agree to the Liaison Committee meeting anywhere other than the current venue, which is Cairo. As regards the question of visiting Israel, it is too early to talk about that. Withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho must first be completed and the Israeli forces redeployed outside the populated areas by election time. This means that we still have seven or eight months of continuous work requiring that we remain abroad until all these measures are completed.

[Al-Asadi] Has Yasir 'Arafat been invited to visit Israel and address the Knesset? Would he accept such invitation?

['Abbas] He has not been invited.

[Al-Asadi] What would be the position if there was such an invitation?

['Abbas] I believe that 'Arafat should first go to Gaza and Jericho and then we will see. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] How do you view Syrian opposition to the agreement, bearing in mind the unanimous view that there can be no peace without Syria?

['Abbas] The Syrians, as far as I know, are not opposd to the agreement. I have heard Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' say that the agreement contains some positive points which we should benefit from. As regards the Damascus-based opposition, that is a different matter. That is Palestinian opposition. Opposition, in my view, is legitimate whatever its source. The Palestinians should express their views and we should begin getting used to democracy. Everyone should voice an opinion. We are against the one-party system, rule, or trend. We are for plurality in any future Palestinian entity.

[Al-Asadi] Even if the opposition went so far as to form an alternative or a parallel organization?

['Abbas] We hope that whatever measures they take would be more reasonable and would fall within the context of improving conditions and improving future prospects and looking for the better course, and not in the context of damage and destruction. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] How do you view Hamas's call for dialogue with Fatah but without 'Arafat and Mahmud 'Abbas?

['Abbas] Dialogue is acceptable and reasonable in principle, and we are ready for it. It is not a question of individuals, because whoever goes to represent Fatah would be representing Fatah and its views whether that person is 'Arafat or myself; but it is impolite to mention names and say who should and should not attend. Whoever represents us would present and defend our views as a whole.

[Al-Asadi] Have you and Hamas managed to set a date for a meeting?

['Abbas] They have not raised the issue again with us. They first raised it and then kept quiet. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] There have been direct and indirect threats to 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin. How do you deal with that? Does that constitute a risk for you?

['Abbas] We have known since we started the revolution that we would be targets of assassination, bloody attempts, and everything else. We do not, therefore, pay any attention to that. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] Do you lend any credibility to the international moves to give generous aid for Gaza and Jericho?

['Abbas] The world has approved a specific aid figure and it is prepared, as we heard from the Washington conference and the other meetings held in Europe, to provide aid. What we have heard so far is serious talk which awaits

implementation. Only then will we be able to know if the serious words are matched by serious execution.

[Al-Asadi] And if these promises are not kept?

['Abbas] Then we will have been deceived, and it would be just a plot against us. It would mean that they were handing us a burned-out country and saying: Here you are, rule it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Asadi] There is growing international and Arab support for ending the Arab boycott [of Israel]. Do you see that as a possibility now?

['Abbas] The Arab boycott is an Arab issue. We have heard more than one Arab state spell out its position. They all say that the Arab boycott was a result of the Middle East problem. Has that problem been solved? As it has not been solved and as the causes are still there, then the consequences must also remain.

[Al-Asadi] Do you believe that the agreement has led to the opening of a new chapter in Palestinian-Gulf relations?

['Abbas] Palestinian-Gulf relations were beginning to return to normal gradually before the agreement was signed. The agreement has perhaps helped speed the tempo of that process.

[Al-Asadi] Abu-Dhabi is the first Gulf country you have visited since the agreement. What have you heard here about support for the agreement?

['Abbas] I have heard full and absolute support from United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, and other senior officials. I heard even more than—specifically, I heard that "any opposition to that agreement would be tendentious opposition." [passage omitted]

SHIHAN Interviews Islamic Jihad Leader

JN2210114393 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 23-29 Oct 93 p 14

["Exclusive" interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement, by an unidentified SHIHAN reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi is still a mystery for many political and security quarters in the world. He is the closest Palestinian figure to Iran and is accused by the West of "terrorism." What heightens the West's fear of him is the fact that he does not speak much, keeps away from the limelight, and moves around as if the air is hiding a potential enemy. SHIHAN has tried to telephone him in Damascus, where he sometimes resides, but he was outside Syria. His aides, who refused to give us his address or telephone number outside Syria, suggested that we fax the questions so he could send written answers. This is what we did. Once we received the answers, we were surprised by the interesting, and equally worrying, ideas, and by his serious concepts about the regional map and the image of the future. Whether we agree with Dr. al-Shaqaqi or not, we feel his opinions are important and people must know about them. Following is the text of the interview:

[SHIHAN] What is your reaction to the recent news reports on an attempt to assassinate 'Arafat? And, how do you react to the accusation that you were behind the latest attempt?

[Al-Shaqaqi] This is the first time I've heard that we were accused of such an attempt. At any rate, the PLO, via WAFA [the Palestinian News Agency], has denied that there was such an attempt, in the first place. Amid the ocean of the various statements that have been made about this since the humiliation agreement was signed in Washington, we said that we oppose political assassinations. We oppose that kind of murder, in our religious and political ideology. We fight the political battle with our opponents by employing evidence and argument. There is no indication or evidence in the history of our movement to suggest that we employ such methods. That is what we have stressed throughout many years of jihad and struggle. This is what we also stressed after the 13 September agreement was signed in Washington, when many questions were asked in that regard.

We do not seek to assassinate anyone. We, however, fear that Yasir 'Arafat will resort to such methods, and he has a long experience in this field. Give us guarantees that 'Arafat will not invoke a civil war, and I will tell you that there will be no civil war. Give us guarantees that 'Arafat will not assassinate anyone, and we will tell you there will be no political assassinations in Palestine.

[SHIHAN] News agencies have recently reported that Abu-'Ali Shahin [a prominent Fatah member] was involved with you in the latest assassination attempt. How true are these reports?

[Al-Shaqaqi] If we were not in great distress because of the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement, I would say your question makes me laugh. First, there was no assassination attempt. Second, we have no direct or indirect contact with Abu-'Ali Shahin, and I remember that I met him only twice, once by accident some 10 years ago inside Palestine. Third, why should Abu-'Ali Shahin be involved in an attempt to assassinate 'Arafat when he, Abu-'Ali, is preparing to return to Gaza and knows that he cannot return to Gaza without Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat also knows that he needs Abu-'Ali Shahin, at least at this stage.

[SHIHAN] It is known that Iran supports your movement. How important is this assistance? Our sources say it is minimal.

[Al-Shaqaqi] More than two years ago, Iran launched an initative through its Majles under the banner of championing the intifadah and the Palestinian people. As a result of this initiative, families of martyrs who fell during the intidafdah were cared for. As far as I know, there was adherence to this policy. The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, like all the other Palestinian factions and forces, had something to do with this initiative. However, I would like to reaffirm here that the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine is an independent Islamic movement and its

decisions, actions, and policies are based on its own convictions. We define our positions vis-a-vis forces and regimes on the basis of their stands toward Palestine and Islam in terms of their love and hatred for them, or their remoteness or proximity from them. It all depends on these two axes in our lives: Palestine and Islam. We have never received any conditional assistance from anyone. The only condition we gladly accept is the condition to fight the Zionist enemy.

[SHIHAN] Our sources report that the presence of the movement in Syria is not official and is governed by an implicit agreement, not like the other Palestinian opposition groups. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Our movement's main and most effective presence is in Palestine, in the Palestinian camps, cities, and villages. As for our presence outside Palestine, it is secondary and marginal. Syria is one of the Arab countries which open their arms to all Arabs. It is still in a state of war with Israel. That's why it does not object to the presence of militant Palestinian factions on its soil. Most of the known factions have a political and military presence in Syria, and this is part of Syria's policy. Our visit to Syria, or our presence there for some time, do not call for complications or official protocols and conventions, as long as our main target remains the Zionist enemy and in Palestine and as long as we do not interfere in the domestic affairs of one country or another.

I left Palestine as a deportee five years ago. I moved from one Arab country to the other. I am now answering your questions from outside Syria.

[SHIHAN] At a previous time, you said that the most important arenas to you are the Jordanian and Palestinian arenas. What is the importance of the Jordanian arena to you under the new circumstances and under peace?

[Al-Shaqaqi] No Palestinian struggler can ignore the importance of Jordan and its special status regarding the Palestine question. Geographically and historically, Jordan and Palestine cannot be separated. Jordan and Palestine share long borders, and half or more of Jordan's citizens are of a Palestinian origin. Until recently, the West Bank was linked administratively with Jordan. Its citizens, and some of the Gaza Strip citizens, still hold Jordanian passports. So, is there any Arab country that is more important than Jordan in this regard?

Concerning Jordan's importance under the new circumstances, I say that the 13 September [PLO-Israel] agreement in Washington will bring a catastrophe to Jordan and the Palestinian people. This agreement cannot satisfy a single Palestinian. This is why they are telling us that this is only a step which be followed by other steps. However, knowledgeable people know full well, and even the agreement itself indicates, that there will be no withdrawal from the West Bank, but a redeployment of the [Israeli] army outside cities. Settlements will also be reorganized, as well as roads trodden by settlers. He who knows all this has no choice but to ridicule the expression "redeployment of the army."

I do not want to get into the details of this agreement which will never please any Palestinian, as the Israelis and Americans know. So, what is the solution? Jordan is the solution. Jordan is the Palestinian homeland. Geopolitics here do not have room for three entities between Iraq's western border and the Mediterranean. 'Arafat will go to Jericho to skirmish with Jordan and to cancel its role. The West and the Jews believe that Jordan's role is to absorb the repercussions of the Balfour Declaration. The role is about to be completed following 'Arafat's signing of the agreement. Talk by the Israelis and 'Arafat about a confederation between Gaza-Jericho, or even the West Bank, with Jordan is no more than a political farce. I believe that the king and the crown prince are aware of this, but pressures are unbearable. At any rate, we are against this scenario, and we will fight it strongly. The Palestinians have a homeland, i.e., Palestine, and the Jordanians have a homeland, namely, Jordan. We are advocates of unity, not only between Palestine and Jordan, but among all the countries of the nation. We will not accept an alternative homeland or the absorption of the repercussions of the Balfour Declaration by Jordan. Jordan will not lose its importance, and its people must not bury their heads in the sand. They are capable of foiling this humiliating and serious agreement, and let Clinton go to hell.

[SHIHAN] In case Damascus signed a declaration of principles and a peace agreement with Israel, what are the measures that would be taken, considering you are from the opposition?

[Al-Shaqaqi] You can pose this question to the Syrians. I do not make plans for them or for any other side. As for the Islamic Jihad Movement, its presence is basically in Palestine, and any other presence is a secondary, temporary, and transient presence. In any case, our loads are lighter than you imagine them, and the strong idea cannot be obstructed be obstacles or borders.

Algeria

Human Rights League Urges Rejection of Violence

LD2310210193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Algerian Human Rights League today issued a communique in which it reiterated the appeal it had launched in November 1992 to all sectors of civil society to face up to the situation by rejecting and condemning all acts of violence; spreading the spirit of tolerance, democratic values, and the principles of human rights; preserving and entrenching freedom of speech and the right to be different; and participating in the running of public affairs and civil rights and liberties, which is the only way to eradicate violence and counterviolence. The way to achieve those objectives is to disarm ideas [as heard], and to resort to dialogue as the best and most civilized means to bring closer points of view and to end disputes.

On the occasion of establishing the National Committee for Dialogue, the Algerian Human Rights League, while it supports the initiative and backs the committee in its objective, hopes that all parties concerned with dialogue will make concessions in order to achieve a united stance to save the country from this impasse, and to end this tragedy.

Issues Statement on Situation

LD2410113493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Algerian Human Rights League yesterday issued a statement announcing that it is following with extreme anxiety the frequent acts of murder and sabotage, causing the death of innocent people every day, as well as the destruction of public property and installations. Highlights of the main points of this statement are in the following report by our correspodent Abdelhamid:

[Abdelhamed] After having drawn a dark picture of the situation in the country at the beginning of its statement, the Human Rights League announced that no day passes by without the recording of deaths, whether within the ranks of the security forces—police, gendarmerie, and army or state officials—or the country's cadres—men of knowledge, culture, the media, and citizens. In addition, the league says, acts of pursuit and harrassment leave a number of dead, and the death sentence is being carried out on groups of people against whom sentence has been passed by extraordinary courts. In view of the people's fear, public opinion which is suffering from confusion, and political parties which are either absent or being made to be absent, the league reaffirms that what is taking place violates the most basic of human rights—the right to live. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leader Nahnah on Movement's Aims

PM2210115493 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 Oct 93 pp 36-37

[Interview with Algerian Hamas—Islamic Society Movement—leader Cheik Mahfoud Nahnah, by 'Uthman Tazghart in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Tazghart] Algeria is currently torn between two political plans: one based on "reconciliation" [with extremists] and the other on "boycott." What is your assessment of the situation in general? And in your view, what are the chances of success for each plan?

[Nahnah] The battle is fundamentally a battle over belonging to a glorious nation —that is, the Arab-Islamic nation—or to plans, nationalities, and religions to which we are bound with nothing except a "territorial bond" or a "human bond." Thus our position on the "boycott" or "reconciliation" issue has been clear from the outset. We said that it is necessary for the Algerians to sit together under the Algerian state's umbrella in order to unite to safeguard the people's identity, capabilities, present, future, and unity. We called and continue to call for reconciliation, not boycott. Because the term "boycott" is used by some people to declare a complete boycott of this people's past, traditions, and achievements. If a boycott is a must, let it be a boycott of negligence, indifference, corruption, and bribery. As for reconciliation, it is needed when there are disputes within the one home. If the matter is to do primarily with achieving reconciliation in "the Algerian home," reconciliation must be conducted under the ceiling and umbrella of the Algerian people and territory. To ensure there is not a complete divorce, we must refer to two values that we have inherited from this nation since before Islam. They are dialogue and tolerance. Without dialogue and tolerance leading to reconciliation, we will inevitably enter a stage of head-butting, and in my view, those who accept head-butting are more like bulls than human beings!

[Tazghart] Most members and supporters of the government formed by Redha Malek advocate "boycott." Nevertheless, we find that the government includes two ministers from among Hamas' supporters. How do you explain this?

[Nahnah] First of all, we say that Redha Malek's government is closer to Mouloud Hamrouche's government model, as it has returned to the terms "administrative reform" and "economic takeoff"—terms which unstable conditions prevented Hamrouche's government from achieving to extricate Algeria from the crisis resulting from years of socialist rule and the one-party system. Redha Malek came to power reinforced with a value that we have never experienced before, as he praised his predecessors—a gesture that deserves every appreciation from us. [passage omitted]

As for the government's composition and the presence of Hamas members in it, I consider any official who is capable of dialogue and administration, who can be called tolerant, and who does not display arrogance toward the

people, to be one of us in Hamas. What we are primarily interested in is a minister who abandons the ugly partisan spirit to serve his homeland and give precedence to the people's interests over personal or partisan interests. Some time ago we raised the slogan: No partisanship in administration, no partisanship in mosques, no partisanship in the Army, and no partisanship in universities.

[Tazghart] You have recently made statements urging the need to differentiate between opposing the government and working to topple or compete with it and working to destroy the state as a whole. Does part of your realism arise from a conviction?

[Nahnah] That is an important point by which we are distinguished from many of the Algerian political tendencies, which are not proficient in the art of political competition and working to reach power by any means. We believe that the state—any state—is one thing and the government is another. Working to destroy the state is a Westernization plan and conspiracy aimed at humiliating the Algerian people. Our movement "Hamas" is competing to submit an Islamic plan offering a political, economic, social, and cultural program different in many points from that of the present regime. But it is a plan within the framework of the Algerian state. The Algerian state was based on the republican system, and we protect this system, but from the angle of a modern, developed state that derives its existence, growth, present, and future from its Arab-Islamic roots and fixed principles, without isolating itself from the peoples or cultures of the world. Thus our movement "Hamas" offers itself as an alternative to what happened in the years of the socialist system and an alternative to other political orientations, but within a framework of moderation. [passage omitted]

[Tazghart] Your presence in Libya during the 1 September celebrations provoked widespread controversy in Algeria and within Hamas (it was reported that Shaykh Busulaymani announced he was quitting), and this was associated with the crisis aroused by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's statements, which were regarded as interference in Algeria's internal affairs. Can you clarify what exactly happened?

[Nahnah] First of all, I was not present when Col. al-Qadhdhafi delivered his speech. I only read it in the newspapers. I did not go to Libya to attend the 1 September celebrations, but to attend a seminar entitled: "Seminar on Democratic Arab Dialogue." What we want is that, if conditions deteriorate among Arab rulers, this should not affect the peoples. We refuse to allow any Arab ruler to transfer his problems to another people. And just as we once rejected the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, we refuse to allow any insults, criticism, or interference in internal affairs between the Libyan ruler and Algeria.

[Tazghart] And what did the colonel say exactly?

[Nahnah] In brief, he wants to act as a mediator between the Algerian authorities and the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. In international traditions, this is considered interference in internal affairs. In my view, this proposal should have been discussed between the rulers, not in a public speech.

[Tazghart] What angered the Algerian regime is what the Algerian press published, namely, statements attributed to the colonel in which he said he had provided aid to Islamic groups.

[Nahnah] That was not in the text of the speech I read in the newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH. The colonel only said that he knows the FIS leadership, that he had led them as an imam in prayers once, and that he could intervene, even if that requires him to go to their prison to talk with them, so that people will stop the present violence.

Search for Kidnapped French Citizens Continues

LD2510200593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The security services are continuing the search for the three French nationals who were kidnapped yesterday in Tlemly quarter in the capital by a terrorist group. It was learned late last night that the car that had been used in the kidnapping was found. [passage omitted]

The French Foreign Affairs Ministry's spokesman called on all French nationals in Algeria to keep calm. He also recalled France's stance toward Algeria and its interest in helping Algeria get out of its economic difficulties.

Police Superintendent, Son Killed in Kolea

LD2510135893 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We have learned this morning about the killing of a police superintendent and his son in Kolea, 40 kilometers west of Algiers.

The family of a driver working for Algerian public radio was also wounded yesterday when three men armed with automatic pistols opened fire on them.

Security Forces Kill 7 'Terrorists,' Capture 5

LD2610084193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Security forces killed seven terrorists in central and eastern areas of the country, in Saoula, Tipaza Province; Boumerdes and Larbaa, Blida Province, and Mila.

Security forces also apprehended five terrorists who were part of the group that derailed a train in Kadiria.

Military Court To Hear Kasr El Hirane Case

LD2610092593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A group of those who carried out the Kasr El Hirane operation in Laghouat Province is being referred today to the military court in Ouargla. They are charged with murdering five gendarmes and robbing them of their weapons; they are also charged with transgressing and conspiring against the authority of the state.

Our correspondent gives more details:

[Unidentified correspondent] The military court in Ouargla today begins the trial of the Kasr El Hirane group in Laghouat Province. There are 36 persons in the group; 16 of them are in custody and 20 on the run. An order has been issued for their arrest.

The group to be tried today is accused of killing five gendarmes at Kasr El Hirane and stealing their weapons. They are charged with transgressing and conspiring against the authority of the state.

To recall, the weapons stolen from the gendarme station at Kasr El Hirane were recently recovered in Laghouat.

Seven lawyers who were summoned to attend the military court in Ouargla will be defending the accused. More details will be given in later bulletins.

Egypt

Mubarak, Clinton Answer Questions Before Meeting

NC2510162293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 25 Oct (MENA)—Talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton started at 1115 Washington time, 1715 Cairo time, with a bilateral meeting restricted to the two presidents.

President Mubarak arrived at the White House at 1100 Washington time, where an honor guard was lined up on both sides of the entrance.

President Mubarak was accompanied by members of the Egyptian delegation, which includes Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs; Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; head of the Presidential Office Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi; and Egypt's Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir.

Before the talks started, Presidents Mubarak and Clinton answered journalists' questions. President Mubarak described Israel's release today of a number of Palestinian detainees as a positive step forward.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is doing his utmost to realize peace.

The U.S. President was asked whether he agrees with what President Mubarak said. His answer was "Yes."

President Clinton said he will discuss with President Mubarak the peace process in the Middle East. He added that this will be an opportunity for him to thank President Mubarak for the efforts he has exerted so far and without which the results of the peace process could not have been accomplished. These results are the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He added that, undoubtedly, the situation in Somalia will also be among the topics of discussion between them.

Mubarak-Clinton News Conference

NC2510192093 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Joint news conference by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak after their meeting at the White House in Washington on 25 October; monitored in progress—live, in English with simultaneous translation into Arabic]

[Text] [Clinton]...Egypt has acted as one of our nation's partners for a long time. It was actually involved in the Camp David peace process over a decade ago. Today, Egypt remains one of our biggest partners in the world. We are continuing our partnership by working for peace and stability in the Middle East. We are also partners in many international issues, from Desert Storm to the peacekeeping mission in Somalia. I would like to express my personal appreciation of President Mubarak for his commitment to boosting Egypt's humanitarian efforts and for his personal participation in the recent developments between Israel and the PLO. Without your continued efforts, Mr. President, this would not have happened.

President Mubarak is a man of great courage and determination. He is also looking toward the future, leading his country toward employment and a market economy. The president and his government have played a major role in the Middle East peace process. President Mubarak was a main factor in the agreement between Israel and the PLO. Thanks to his efforts, Egypt helped solve many problems. It made many efforts so that the talks between the PLO and Israel could continue. This leadership will continue to be necessary as we work for peace, and we are working for a comprehensive peace. In our talks this morning, the president and I agreed that we must continue this process so that all the pieces are put in their proper place and a comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East.

We discussed the next steps in the process, including our common commitment to ensuring that the Israeli-PLO agreement is implemented in full and to acting as a catalyst for a comprehensive settlement. We will work with the other Arab leaders to establish a dialogue and reconciliation between the Arab parties and Israel. We also discussed cooperation between our two countries to help solve regional problems in Africa and other places and confront the challenges there. Egypt will always have a special meaning, especially as far as we are concerned. It is the cradle of civilization for all of us, and today it is playing a leading role in confronting the challenges of its own development and building a better future for all the people of the Middle East.

Egypt has experience in tolerance and in helping everyone in the Middle East. It has a future full of prosperity. President Mubarak has a great deal of experience in this. I enjoyed talking with him, and I welcome him to Washington.

[Mubarak] Mr. President: I was very pleased to meet with President Clinton for the second time in six months. Our meeting today reinforced my impression that the President

is a man of courage and moral commitment. We discussed many issues, and our viewpoints were largely identical. President Clinton listened attentively about African issues. We agreed to maintain a state of vigilance and alert until the policy of racial discrimination is eliminated and replaced by democratic rule.

We agreed that the political solution hoped for in Somalia lies in the full implementation of the Addis Ababa resolutions on national reconciliation. We are watching the situation there closely, and I am in touch with the Ethiopian president, who received a mandate from the OAU to follow the situation.

The United States and Egypt have worked together for peace in the Middle East for more than two decades. Our joint efforts have been fruitful and promising. The peace process was boosted dramatically when Chairman 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin signed a historic document at the White House on 30 September. This was by no means a ceremonial function. It was a living example of a commitment to peace and justice. It was also the personification of the generous contribution of the United States to the whole process. It would not have been possible to realize this great achievement without an active role by the United States. We thank the American people and their [word indistinct] leadership. In the weeks ahead, we will continue to work together to maintain the momentum and keep the process on track.

The Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles should be implemented in good faith and without delay. The negotiations must resume on the other tracks, with full determination to reach an agreement soon, especially with regard to the Syrian track. I believe that the gap between the two parties' positions can be bridged soon. The resumption of the Washington talks will be a golden opportunity to attain this objective.

President Clinton, our discussion of bilateral relations demonstrated our commitment to increase our cooperation in various fields. U.S. support for our economic reform program has enabled us to carry out this reform very successfully. Your continued support is greatly needed for this process to continue. Each and every Egyptian appreciates your support and friendship. You have been a reliable friend and partner. You can count on our friendship and cooperation, as well. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to invite President Clinton to visit Egypt at his earliest convenience. This will offer the Egyptian people the chance to express their appreciation to the President and his great nation. Thank you.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] Department and Secretary Christopher. They [words indistinct] for the destruction of all their countries' long-range nuclear weapons by signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Do you think that this stand is justified, as they say, by the instability in Russia?

[Clinton] I understand their position, but I think that it is not justified. We are making progress with Russia, too [words indistinct] with all these agreements. There is no evidence that any of the developments that they might conceive in their worst fears will lead to their unwillingness to cooperate. [words indistinct] may see that as a counter to nonnuclear pressures they might feel in the future. I believe that we have been very clear from the beginning. We want to have a strong partnership with them to reduce the nuclear arsenals. We will try to do this.

[Correspondent] In your discussions with President Mubarak [words indistinct] the resumption of talks on the Syrian-Israeli track... [translation of question not completed]

[Clinton] I believe that it is important for us to resume the talks between Syria and Israel, but it must be in a climate that ensures their success. I believe that Prime Minister Rabin, President al-Asad, and the Israeli and Syrian people want this process to succeed. The Israeli-PLO accord must be implemented, and we should continue to work for progress on the other tracks and encourage the process of better [word indistinct] and contacts between Israel and Arab countries, which I am trying to do.

I believe that if we do all this, great success will be achieved in the near future. I would like to give the Egyptian press the opportunity to ask questions.

[Correspondent] Will you visit other Arab countries when you visit Egypt, and will you try to resume talks between Israel and both the Syrians and the Lebanese?

[Clinton] I was just invited to visit Egypt and have not worked out a schedule yet. I believe the United States and the secretary of state will continue their participation in the region. I hope for a complete resumption of all tracks in the Middle East peace process. This is the view of our administration.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] security here today for Mr. Mubarak. Is this in response to a specific threat, and in general can you [words indistinct]?

[Clinton] We discussed this, and I would like the president to comment on it. A great deal of progress has been made on the issue of security. There are numerous problems and pressures in the Middle East, and I believe that we and all nations look forward to peace. President Mubarak and I want security in our countries.

[Correspondent] Has a specific threat been made against you, sir?

[Mubarak] I have not heard of any such threats here in the United States. If you are talking about our country, we are much better now. You might hear about an incident every now and then, but this happens everywhere. You can visit our country and walk in the streets to see for yourself what is happening in our country.

[Correspondent] Have you adopted any stand on relations with Egypt?

[Clinton] We discussed this a great deal during lunch before this news conference. I am grateful for Egypt's

continuous participation, and I believe that we agree—President Mubarak and I—on our common goals on Somalia: that the Somalis themselves should decide what they want.

[Correspondent] The UN representative, Mr. Caputo, stressed that the peace process must continue. What is your assessment of what was done at the end of last week?

[Clinton] As I said before, we will do our utmost to help Haiti. Some of the recent developments will help in this effort. We will help coordinate the efforts. We certainly hope so. Mr. Caputo did a good job and worked very closely with my personal envoy there. I had not heard of this proposal until this morning. I spoke with President Carter about Haiti. He knows President Aristide very well, and his administration had similar problems with other countries. We will discuss this proposal, and we will see what his reaction is. I believe that Mr. Caputo and Mr. Langley will do what need to be done. We are all trying to help this process succeed. Is there a question from the Egyptian side?

[Correspondent] Will aid to the Middle East be decreased?

[Clinton] I support U.S. aid and grants to Egypt. I must say that the future of our relationship, including aid, will be the subject of constant dialogue between President Mubarak and myself. We will do everything that is appropriate to ensure Egypt's success and to allow it to continue in this constructive way.

[Correspondent] Regarding Syria, do you think that the political climate in Israel might see a relaxation in relations with Syria now that Rabin has returned Gaza and part of the West Bank?

[Clinton] I don't know what the answer is. But I can say that basically we rely on the composition of the Knesset. The parties that left the coalition did not vote against the peace process. It is necessary for the prime minister to have not only popular support for everything that has happened, but also that this popular support be transferred to the Knesset so that he will be able to make progress. As for the U.S. position, I believe that Prime Minister Rabin wants a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and for this to be achieved, he must have the support of the Israeli people. We should implement the present agreement between Israel and the PLO so that we can make progress here and on the other tracks, as well. He needs to resolve all the stands, and we should not force him into a situation where peace is impossible. I cannot present you with a comprehensive analysis of Israeli public opinion, but there cannot be comprehensive peace in the Middle East if there is no peace with Syria. However, timing is extremely important, and the progress being made now is also extremely important. Are there any more questions?

[Correspondent] Are democracy and human rights necessary conditions for foreign aid? If so, what is your position on this policy?

[Clinton] Democracy and human rights are extremely important. The first democratic president in Russia is now drawing up the constitution and the process to elect a new parliament. He will have political legitimacy. People may differ with him, but things will be legitimate according to the constitution. I also say that, in view of the circumstances he was facing, he exercised extreme severity and reservations. [sentence as heard]

[Correspondent] We have less than a month before Congress votes on the GATT agreement. How can you push this process forward, and how serious are you with regard to the success or failure of this policy?

[Clinton] I think the most significant thing is how important this is for the United States. I believe it is extremely important for our country. I am working very hard. I have had a number of meetings and will work this weekend before the vote, focusing my attention on Congress. We made some progress last week, and more will be made this week, too. It is clear that the United States is interested in seeking larger markets. This means more jobs and a better climate for cooperation with Mexico with regard to the issues of immigration and drugs. This is a very important agreement, and I believe that the most important thing is to have a secret vote [as heard], which will make it easy. I will help them to do this. Thank you very much.

Al-Baz on Mubarak-Clinton Talks

NC2510215693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 25 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stressed that Egypt and the United States are eager to achieve progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Today's talks between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton emphasized that such progress is an indispensable factor for advancing the peace process, he added.

Dr. al-Baz noted that contacts to set a date for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington are continuing, but that he expected the next round to be held in November.

Speaking to Egyptian reporters today, Dr. al-Baz did not rule out a meeting between the Syrian and U.S. presidents in the future.

He said Washington is now discussing a date for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region. He pointed out that Christopher's talks will center on the Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

Dr. al-Baz reiterated that the U.S. Administration is interested in the Syrian-Israeli track because it is essential for peace. We also consider it essential to a comprehensive peace, he said.

Al-Baz said that during the talks with Clinton today, President Mubarak discussed increasing trade between Egypt and the United States, especially Egyptian exports to the United States. He said this subject will be discussed in detail when President Mubarak receives U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown.

Dr. al-Baz said the Mubarak-Clinton talks also dealt with the Libyan-Western crisis.

Dr. al-Baz stressed the need for a speedy implementation of agreements reached by the Palestinians and the Israelis.

In this respect, he noted two points in particular: First, security and the need to increase it so that there will be no gap between the Israeli withdrawal and the assumption of power by the Palestinian administration, and second, the establishment of Palestinian institutions capable of assuming economic responsibility.

He said there must be a group of Palestinians to take control of these economic issues, because the countries that will provide financial assistance want to make sure that there is a committee to supervise it. The United States, he said, is confident of this and wants to help the Palestinians in this regard.

Al-Baz said the U.S. Administration knows that some problems will arise when the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles is transformed into a detailed agreement. But at the same time, he added, the U.S. Administration has resolved that all these problems will be overcome and that this track will succeed. He noted that they want additional efforts on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Concerning Israel's request to lift the Arab boycott, he said the Israelis believe that this measure will help expedite the peace process and generate progress on the other tracks, especially the Syrian-Israeli track.

He noted Israel's desire to show the Israeli public some indication that the Arabs will respond positively if tangible progress is made in the peace process. For a long time, the Arabs have said that the Palestinian cause is the core and essence of the problem. It was understood that if a [words indistinct] on the Palestinian track, the Arabs would be more open to Israel.

He said that starting from this point, the U.S. side pointed out [words indistinct] that any encouraging gesture or sign from the Arab countries, especially from countries that have not participated in the peace process, (?toward) Israel will help Israeli Prime Minister Rabin domestically and will make the Israeli public more receptive to moves on other fronts.

Al-Baz said the Egyptian view in this regard is that if progress is sought, it must come from both sides—Arab and Israeli, that Israel has to cooperate fully with the Palestinians in implementing this agreement, and that quick (?progress) should also take place on the Syrian track. He explained that the slowness on the Syrian track on the pretext that Israel cannot move on two tracks simultaneously [sentence incomplete as received].

Al-Baz commented on removing weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East and whether this was discussed at the summit meeting between Mubarak and Clinton. He said the issue was not discussed at the Mubarak-Clinton talks today. In this regard, he added, we hold the view that weapons of mass destruction must be removed from all the countries of the region.

He said that, in the past, Israel had refused outright to talk about this subject and that their excuses for not discussing it now are weaker, because in the past they claimed that Iraq and other countries in the East and West were hostile to them. This excuse is now weak and unacceptable.

Al-Baz said the Israelis have now begun to think about the circumstances under which the removal of mass-destruction weapons may be achieved. [words indistinct] all Arabs made peace with them or whether this should be confined to the major Arab countries, determining the size of the forces in the entire Arab region, and whether it is possible to link weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons. They have begun to debate these issues for the first time, he added.

Further on Talks With Clinton

NC2610081893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs, has told our radio's central news team in Washington that President Husni Mubarak's talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday were marked by amity and friendliness.

Dr. al-Baz added that Presidents Mubarak and Clinton discussed current international issues and then moved on to some regional issues. He added: It was natural to begin the conversation with the Middle East issue, which is a topical and urgent issue, considering that a new round of negotiations will resume in Washington at the end of November.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized that Egypt and the United States are trying to speed up the achievement of two goals: implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and making tangible progress on the Israeli-Syrian track.

In addition, he added, Presidents Mubarak and Clinton discussed the situation in the Horn of Africa, with special emphasis on Somalia, which is particularly important since both the United States and Egypt want stability in that country, he added. The two presidents also discussed the situation in Eastern Europe, particularly in Russia, and the U.S. views on the developments in Russia as well as the current U.S. role in the Ukraine. The two presidents also discussed the situation in Haiti.

On U.S. aid to Egypt, Dr. al-Baz said that Presidents Mubarak and Clinton are aware of the circumstances in each country. He added that President Clinton, his administration, and the U.S. people fully realize the importance of keeping U.S. aid at its present level for a specific time. The U.S. President stressed U.S. interest in keeping Egypt's economic strength, as far as the economic reforms are concerned. He also stressed U.S. interest in maintaining military aid because Egypt's military strength is

important in preserving stability and balance in the region; it is playing an effective Arab, Islamic, and African role; and its contribution to peacemaking operations in the region depends largely on its domestic stability.

Dr. al-Baz emphasized that the United States is convinced that the wave of terrorism in Egypt has receded. Concluding his statement, Dr. al-Baz stressed that President Mubarak had been eager to discuss the question of Bosnia with President Clinton.

Al-Baz on 'Amicable' Talks

NC2610090793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs, Dr. Usamah.

[Al-Baz] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Let us begin our dialogue with what went on during President Mubarak's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton yesterday.

[Al-Baz] The meeting between the two presidents was both important and amicable. It was important in terms of the subjects discussed and the timing of the meeting, which came at a sensitive and critical time when the world is witnessing major developments, particularly in the region where we live, which is the scene of important changes and the subject of major challenges. Thus, it was important for the two presidents to exchange views on all these topics along with such other issues as Somalia, the situation in the Gulf, African issues, and so on. It was amicable because there were no points of disagreement, although the two sides may view things from different angles. What is important is that we came out of the meeting with a clear impression that the U.S. Administration is very interested in continuing the Middle East peace process. It is also interested in achieving comprehensive peace on all Arab tracks. It does not want the momentum to be confined to the progress made on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Usamah, was there a discussion of ways to give momentum to the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks similar to those used on the Israeli-Palestinian track?

[Al-Baz] Yes. The United States says that it fully subscribes to this view, but it seems that Israel needs some time for public opinion to digest the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and for the agreement to be implemented before moving on to the Syrian track. While understanding the political reality within Israel, the U.S. Administration prefers to see simultaneous progress on the other tracks; namely, the Syrian-Israeli, Lebanese-Israeli, and Jordanian- Israeli tracks, because Jordan is an important neighbor of Israel whose role must not be ignored. Several approaches—I do not say alternatives—were discussed on this matter. It is clear that the U.S. Administration wants to maintain its contacts with the various parties, including Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Palestinians. The United States is following up on the negotiations that have taken place in Taba and Cairo and those that will be held in the future. In the meantime, it also wants bilateral relations to resume in Washington and hopes that this will take place near the end of next month.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Usamah, in addition to the discussions of the peace process and ways of advancing it on all tracks at the Egyptian-U.S. summit, certainly the two leaders must have discussed other issues. Can you tell us about the most important of these issues, particularly since President Mubarak is the current OAU chairman?

[Al-Baz] Of course, they discussed numerous African issues, primarily the Somali issue, the situation in Burundi, and the latest coup there. They also debated the African debts, desertification, drought, and ways of cooperating with the African countries in these areas.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the U.S. position on these issues?

[Al-Baz] The U.S. position showed understanding. The United States says that the problem is that it is necessary to take action on several fronts at the same time because there are other areas in the world that need aid. We believe that these situations do not require only aid, but also international interest in issues such as desertification and drought, which require technical and ecological assistance rather than financial aid.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Did the summit broach the Libyan-Western crisis?

[Al-Baz] Of course. Both leaders discussed this issue. We are very much interested because Libya is a neighboring country, and we do not want this conflict to continue. Continuation of this conflict will result in continued tension in the region. It is not in our interest to have this situation go on, particularly since Libya has an important location in the Arab Maghreb and in North Africa.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In addition to the political issues, economic issues are also important. Did the talks deal with cooperation, trade exchange, and bilateral ties?

[Al-Baz] Naturally, President Mubarak raised various issues, such as the trade balance between Egypt and the United States and the need to make further progress and to open U.S. markets to Egyptian exports. They also discussed other areas of cooperation, such as providing Egypt with advanced technology, not only to large industries but also to others.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. al-Baz, we thank you very much and always welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

Talks Held With World Bank Chief

NC2610110193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2244 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 25 Oct (MENA)—World Bank President Louis Preston described his talks today with President Husni Mubarak as "important."

He said that his assistant, Ramsubra, will visit Cairo and discuss cooperation between the World Bank and Egypt with the new Egyptian Government.

Asked for his assessment of the economic reforms carried out in Egypt, he said that they were very constructive.

He denied that the World Bank has asked Egypt to take harsh measures to implement the economic reform program.

Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs, said that the meeting dealt with the World Bank's role in cooperation with Egypt, adding that this role will increase in the coming stage.

Dr. 'Ubayd said that the talks also dealt with the role that Egypt could play with the World Bank to implement projects in the Gaza and Jericho areas. He added that the World Bank president expressed his happiness that the bank is implementing with Egypt one of the most successful economic reform programs.

Talks Held With Bentsen

NC2610110393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2142 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 25 Oct (MENA)—In a statement following his meeting today with President Husni Mubarak, U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said that he congratulated President Mubarak on the economic progress made by Egypt through which it overcame the deficit in the balance of payments.

He expressed to the president his best wishes that Egypt will continue its excellent economic growth at the level reached in the past.

On the other hand, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs, stated that President Mubarak reviewed with the U.S. secretary of the treasury issues of interest to both countries that are relevant to Egypt's economic reform program. He added that the U.S. secretary of the treasury expressed his appreciation for the huge achievements made in this reform program. He stressed that the United States will continue to support this program and expressed the hope that the coming stage will be more successful so that Egypt can continue as a leading state in all fields.

On increasing trade exchange between the two countries, Dr. 'Ubayd said that this issue was raised during the meeting, adding that the U.S. side is ready to give whatever the Egyptian and U.S. sides believe will help support and back the trade exchange between the two countries, especially to encourage Egyptian exports to the United States, since Egypt now has the capacity and the desire to cooperate with the U.S. market.

Commentary Views 'Fateful' Issues for Talks

NC2210195793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Fateful Issues of the Mubarak-Clinton Summit in Washington"]

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will visit Washington at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton. In their second meeting this year, the two presidents will hold comprehensive talks on issues related to the hotbeds of tension in the Middle East and Africa, notably the crises of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

To all political observers, President Clinton's eagerness to invite President Mubarak to a summit meeting in Washington means that Egypt's influence can be used to boost the peace process and remove the obstacles to Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli peace agreements. And the fact that Egypt, under Mubarak, is the chairman of the current OAU session means that any solution to the Somali dilemma cannot be reached without the participation and the efforts of Egypt and its president.

The recent talks in Cairo among President Mubarak, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Islamic Conference Organization Secretary Hamid al-Ghabid reflected President Mubarak's intensive efforts to contain the domestic struggle in Somalia, especially since it has developed into a direct confrontation between a number of Somali factions and the UN forces in the country.

Egypt was one of the first countries to urge the avoidance of a military confrontation between the parties to the conflict so that the crisis would not grow beyond a solution. Egypt's proposal for negotiations between the United Nations and General Mohamed Farah Aidid was one of the efforts to ease the tension, pave the way for direct negotiations among the warring parties, and facilitate the Somali reconciliation conference, which will be held in Addis Ababa this month, to succeed and bring security and stability to Somalia.

The United States has been eager to address the role of Egypt and President Mubarak, whether concerning the crisis in the Syrian-Israeli talks in the Middle East or the Somali crisis in Africa. The purpose is to advance the Middle East peace process toward historic achievements. This began with the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles on 13 September and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. The implementation of this agreement, which was signed at the White House, is being discussed by Palestinian-Israeli committees in Cairo and Taba. The Palestinian leadership will

assume self-rule authority in the Palestinian territories, from which Israel will withdraw, beginning with Gaza and Jericho.

The Mubarak-Clinton summit is an important factor in achieving peace and stability and preventing chaos and terrorism in our region. This will give development and construction in the region a complete chance. It remains to say that two summits in one year between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton means that Egypt, under Mubarak, is moving confidently to support peace and stability, with the burdens of the Arab homeland on its shoulders and the concerns and ambitions of the region toward development, progress, and prosperity in its heart.

Musa: UK, Syria Report 'Nature of Talks'

NC2310135993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] London, 23 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described in a statement today British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's current visit to Syria as a very important visit.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in London during President Mubarak's stopover at Heathrow Airport in London on his way to the United States, 'Amr Musa said the British and Syrian sides have informed Egypt of the nature of the talks between them.

He clarified that the objective behind these talks is generally to push the peace process in the Middle East forward.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Burundi Situation

NC2210210193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman, has issued instructions to African delegations at the United Nations to hold consultations in order to contain the deteriorating situation in Burundi.

He also instructed the head of the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations to hold urgent contacts with the president and members of the Security Council to handle developments in Burundi in line with the UN Charter to preserve that country's well-being and its citizens' security.

The following is the text of the Foreign Ministry's statement on this issue:

President Husni Mubarak has followed with extreme concern the regrettable events in Burundi, which threaten its people's security and its democratic process and further complicate Africa's problems.

This evening, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa telephoned OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim. Salim had sent a message to OAU Chairman Mubarak informing him of the situation following yesterday's bloody coup d'etat in Burundi, in which several citizens and officials were killed. The message spells out the OAU's condemnation of these regrettable incidents.

President Husni Mubarak has issued instructions to the African delegations at the United Nations to hold consultations among themselves and to the head of the Egyptian delegation to hold urgent contacts with the president and members of the Security Council to contain the situation and handle it in line with the UN Charter to preserve Burundi's well-being and its citizens' security and show respect for the principles of democracy by holding a dialogue among the Burundian factions.

Diplomatic Office To Open in South Africa

NC2210210393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Egypt has decided to open a diplomatic representation office in South Africa at the beginning of November. It will be headed by Counselor Mayy 'Amr, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced today.

He said the representation will be raised to the ambassadorial level after the elections in South Africa, scheduled for 27 April.

Djibouti Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

NC2510054393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Djibouti Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou arrived in Cairo from Paris tonight on a 1-day visit to Egypt. Upon his arrival, Hamadou expressed congratulations to President Husni Mubarak on his reelection for a third term in office.

Assistant Foreign Minister Badr Hamman, who was on hand to receive Hamadou, said that Djibouti is a fraternal country that has good and close relations with Egypt. There is joint cooperation between the two countries in several fields, he added.

Departs After 1-Day Visit

NC2610100593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0658 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Djibouti Prime Minister Gourad Hamadou Barkat and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning for home following a 1-day visit, during which he met with a number of Egyptian officials. The Djibouti prime minister arrived in Cairo from Paris on Sunday.

Italian Defense Minister Meets Counterpart

NC2610105493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, today received Italian Defense Minister Fabio Fabbri, who is currently visiting Cairo leading a large military delegation.

During the talks, which were attended by ranking Armed Forces leaders, the discussion focused on how to develop

and improve military relations between the Armed Forces in Egypt and Italy in various fields to meet the demands and interests of the two countries.

The Italian defense minister and his delegation today placed a flower wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier in Madinat al-Nasr in honor of the memory of the martyrs of the glorious October war.

The Italian defense minister is visiting Egypt to participate in the celebrations of the 51st anniversary of the Battle of al-'Alamayn. These celebrations took place during the past three days in al-'Alamayn.

Denmark Grants 500-Million Pounds for Environment

NC2610101793 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 4

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs, has stated that Denmark has extended a 500 million Egyptian pounds grant over a period of five years to be used in environment protection and antipollution projects, protection of natural resources, and the establishment of natural reserves.

Dr. 'Ubayd made these remarks following a meeting with a visiting Danish delegation led by Environment Minister Svend Auken. He added that a joint committee from the two countries will be formed to discuss ways of spending the grant. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group's Leaders Seek Asylum in Europe

NC2510192793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has begun intensive contacts with certain Arab and European countries in a bid to receive the fugitive leaders of the extremist groups living there.

The government handed the Arab and European interior ministers lists containing the names of the extremists in those countries. The lists also included the charges against each extremist. The government requested that the extremists be handed over as soon as possible to stand trial.

AL-WAFD has learned that some Arab countries have agreed to hand over the extremists who have been convicted. Some Islamic Group leaders had sought political asylum in certain European countries. Those leaders claimed that they are opponents of the Egyptian regime and that they are being persecuted by the government. Some European countries have agreed to grant political asylum to some of the group's leaders. So far, 135 applications for political asylum have been submitted to Austria, Germany, Denmark, and Switzerland.

It is worth mentioning that the group's leaders left for Europe after their expulsion from Pakistan early this year.

Al-Shawqiyun Terrorists' Appeals Dismissed

NC2310114193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Appeals by convicts in the dissident al-Shawqiyun Organization case involving 32 defendants, including four fugitives, were dismissed today.

The Higher Military Tribunal gave death sentences to four defendants, including one fugitive, sentenced two others to 25 years of hard labor, and sentenced eight others to 15 years. It gave various prison sentences to 10 other defendants and acquitted eight.

The verdicts in that case were handed down last month, and the convicts appealed the sentences, but the appeals were refused today. The date of execution remains to be set.

The Military Prosecution had indicted the defendants on charges of belonging to a group founded in violation of the Constitution, breaking into jewelry shops, killing four people, attempted to murder nine others, and for possession of unlicensed arms and ammunition to carry out terrorist attacks.

Twenty Hurt, 100 Arrested at Protest

NC2510212893 Paris AFP in English 2104 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Alexandria, Egypt, Oct 25 (AFP)—Some 20 university students were injured, two seriously, and about 100 were arrested when police broke up a protest of more than 2,000 Moslem fundamentalists, witnesses said.

Police used truncheons, blasted tear gas and fired shots into the air to disperse the protesters, one of whom was seriously hurt when she was trampled on by the crowd.

The students had rallied at the university in this Mediterranean city to protest the expulsion of some 500 students, apparently because they had supported the fundamentalist movement.

They shouted slogans against both the university administration and the government, poured into nearby streets, blocked traffic and attacked cars belonging to professors.

Court Approves Death, Prison Sentences

NC2310101393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0907 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Verdicts passed by the Higher Military Tribunal in the Zinhum Case [of an attack on an army general's car] involving eight suspects, four of whom are still at large, were endorsed today.

The court sentenced two defendants to death, gave various prison sentences to four others, and acquitted two.

The convicts have the right to appeal their sentences within 15 days.

The defendants carried out a terrorist attack on a number of policemen after the execution of the terrorists who

attempted to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. One of the terrorists died and another was wounded at the scene of the incident, where citizens helped arrest the suspects. A police officer and one citizen were killed in the attack.

Source Denies Report on Security Clampdown

NC2610104693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2336 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—A responsible source in the Interior Ministry today denied a report carried this afternoon by a foreign news agency that a security cordon has been imposed on the Dayrut and al-Qusiyah areas in Upper Egypt.

In a statement, the source said that the police forces are now deploying permanent and mobile roadblocks in all governorates to chase and arrest the fugitive terrorists who have started to fall one after the other. It added that this confirms the security forces' ability and efficiency to take the initiative and impose security on all the pits of terrorism.

The source urged all foreign news agencies and correspondents to be accurate in their reports before sending them abroad, especially since the security situation in the country makes it more important that any reports be confirmed by checking them with the Interior Ministry.

The source stressed that the Interior Ministry does not withhold any facts from the media, because it believes that the publication of the facts helps combat and eliminate terrorism.

Minister on Arms, Ammunition Production

NC2410124593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0631 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Engineer Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production, has said that Egypt produces all types of artillery, mortar, and small arms ammunition used by the Egyptian Armed Forces. He added that the production of M1A tanks in the tanks factory is proceeding according to the schedule agreed upon with the armed forces. A good number of tanks of this type have been produced and are currently serving in the armed forces formations, he went on.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM today he said: We have contracts to export arms and ammunition to Arab and African countries and are working to open up new markets for our products.

He noted that the possibility of participating in world military exhibitions, particularly Arab and African exhibitions, is now being examined. He said that one of the ministry's main priorities is to coordinate with and promote work with the Arab Industrialization Organization on the grounds that the Military Production Ministry and the Arab Industrialization Organization are the two sides of production in Egypt and that cooperation between them is necessary and imperative for producing sound products without duplication.

He said that the focus in war production is now on research, development, backing research departments and war production companies, highlighting their role, and on ensuring high quality for all products so as to manufacture good civilian products comparable to the organization's distinguished military production.

He emphasized the importance of the ministry's role in the coming stage in keeping pace with and following world technological developments in all spheres. He also emphasized the importance of the ministry's role in supplying the armed forces with a large portion of their arms and ammunition requirements in order to lessen dependence on imports from abroad, because meeting these requirements with local production ensures us against a weapons monopoly.

The minister of state for war production affirmed that the War Production Ministry has great potential to support the civilian sector in areas where other parties would find it difficult to cope, such as electric power plants and water desalination.

Mauritania

United States Donates 14,880 Tonnes of Corn

LD2110223393 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The United States has given our country a gift of 14,880 tonnes of corn. The gift from John Brown, his excellency the American ambassador in Nouakchott, was received by the commissioner of food security, in the presence of the UN Development Program representative. The presentation ceremony took place at the the Commission of Food Security. On this occasion, the commissioner of food security made a brief address in which he thanked the United States for its valuable assistance, which will benefit the victims of last year's drought. The U.S. ambassador to Nouakchott reaffirmed that his country considers this gift as a food duty presented to those in need. [passage omitted]

President, EC Official View Economy, Arab Unity

AB2310093093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpts] President Maaouiya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya this morning received (Henri Sabi), chairman of the Development Commission of the European Parliament, who began a visit to our country yesterday evening. After the meeting, which was also attended by Ahmed Mohamed Hairou, deputy of (?Darnaine), the European parliamentarian expressed satisfaction with the remarkable progress recorded by our country in its efforts to establish a democratic state in Mauritania. Let us listen to Mr. (Sabi).

[Begin recording] [(Sabi)] I was officially invited by the speaker of the National Assembly and the president of the

Senate to come and see for myself the progress made since your country opted for democracy. Unfortunately, I could not come earlier because of my timetable, but it was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation. What is happening in your country is exemplary at the international level, because you are the only country of the Arab League that has a president of the Republic elected through direct universal suffrage by secret vote. Also, despite very difficult economic conditions, you opted for democracy, and that is incredible. When one considers the conditions in which you launched your democracy and the results you have achieved, one can say that you are one of those who have actually succeeded and who are giving the others good examples to follow.

Furthermore, your country is an interesting case, because your people have a culture of international dimension that can inspire each of you. The existence of a senate in your country has proved that human beings have the same importance as economic development. Having people from various sides in a senate means that you want to create one nation based on its different cultural aspects. I was pleasantly surprised to note the results achieved not only by the democratic process—the lively debate at your Parliament—but also by the economic sector. I think that you have started to enjoy the fruits of your labor, which you have shown and continue to show. What the minister of planning and the head of state told us this morning further convinced us you are also exemplary.

You even have God's blessing to continue this democratic process, since rain has started falling. In fact, it was for us a pleasure to have held discussions with the president. We also examined other problems, especially on the international scene. You know that the world is now shaken by various conflicts and that sometimes the truth does not emerge easily. I briefed him on the efforts we are making to support the Mauritanian people in their difficulties. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] You began the day with intensive activities during which you met with the speaker of the National Assembly and the president of the Senate. Did you define sectors of cooperation between Mauritania and Europe or relations between [words indistinct]?

[(Sabi)] Yes, I discussed that issue. I think that the advantage of Mauritania is to be a significant link between the Arab countries, mainly the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], African countries and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific [ACP] countries. I personally stressed the need for consolidation of relations, solidarity, cooperation, and partnership between the UMA—Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania—and the ACP countries. At the bilateral level, I think that the recent visit of European commissioner Marin and his statement as recalled this morning, have confirmed the EEC's confidence in your country and the exceptional attention Mauritania benefits from the community thanks to the Mauritanian people's efforts. That is an important point. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sudan

Garang: Factions Unite 'To Fight Khartoum'

AB2510225493 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 25 Oct 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Peace seems to have broken out in southern Sudan between the two main rebel factions, the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and SPLA United following a meeting in Washington between their leaders. In the two years since Riak Machar and Lam Akol broke away to form SPLA United, the founder of the SPLA, John Garang, has frequently accused them of attacking his men and of collaborating with the Khartoum government. But now, the U.S. State Department has taken a hand and appears to have succeeded where previous talks in Abuja and in Nairobi have failed. Senior American officials broke at the meeting last week at which Garang and Machar agreed to a cease-fire and is supposed to come into force this afternoon. John Garang is now back in Nairobi and on the line, Robin White asked him what instructions he had for his men in the field:

[Begin recording] [Garang] I have already sent a message to all units for an immediate secession of all hostilities between us and all those forces that consider themselves to be under SPLA United.

[White] Has the fighting already stopped?

[Garang] Well, we have just issued orders. There was fighting in Shugbudu and Equator areas. That was some days back, but has subsided. There has been no fighting in the last few days. So it is a statement of principle. There is no fighting on the ground.

[White] And how long will the cease-fire last for?

[Garang] It is indefinite. We are reuniting in order to fight the common enemy in Khartoum. So I am also calling upon the forces that call themselves SPLA United to immediately turn their guns on Khartoum's forces. That is the aim of the cease-fire, the aim of the reunification is in order to fight Khartoum.

[White] But will you be now be fighting together?

[Garang] Most definitely. We fought together before, and we will fight together again. That comes in Paragraph Seven of our agreement that our common enemy is the NIF [National Islamic Front] government in Khartoum. That is the government that must be fought.

[White] And who is in command of everybody's troops?

[Garang] All unit commanders are in command of their forces. Overall commanders always belong to the commander in chief of the SPLA and that is me.

[White] And Riak Machar has agreed to that, has he?

[Garang] No, that needs to be discussed. That is the issue of the agreement. We will discuss it here in the region.

[White] And when will those discussions take place?

[Garang] Some time before 15 November.

[White] It sounds rather a crucial matter.

[Garang] [words indistinct]

[White] But in further discussions, will you be insisting that you are in overall control of both wings of the movement?

[Garang] If the Nassar faction or SPLA United does fight Khartoum, it is really not important that I am in overall command of their forces. All we want is that they fight against Khartoum, not against us.

[White] And they have said that they are now willing to fight Khartoum?

[Garang] They have agreed to and that is Paragraph Seven and that will be the task of the matter. If they do fight Khartoum, then we will know their sincerity. [end recording]

Embassy Aide Seeks Political Asylum in London

PM2510100093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani and Muhammad Sadiq: "Security Official in Kordofan Province Attacks Government Policies; Plenipotentiary Minister at Sudanese Embassy in London Seeks Political Asylum"]

[Excerpts] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a senior Sudanese diplomat at the Sudanese Embassy in London has applied for political asylum in Britain, the fourth diplomat from the embassy to do so.

Sudanese and diplomatic sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Ahmad 'Umar, plenipotentiary minister at the Sudanese Embassy in London, has submitted an application for political asylum because of conditions in Sudan. Ahmad 'Umar, who worked for the Foreign Ministry for 20 years and was promoted to the rank of minister plenipotentiary, became the most senior diplomat at the Sudanese Embassy after the departure of former Ambassador al-Rashid Abu-Shamah and the arrival of the present Ambassador 'Ali Muhammad 'Uthman Yasin.

Those close to him say that the decision to leave his job and seek political asylum "was very difficult to him."

It is worth mentioning that three other diplomats from the London Embassy—namely, Bushra al-Fadil (consul and official in charge of security), 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Amin (radio officer), and 'Abdallah Ramram (administrative officer)—had all applied for political asylum in Britain.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Khalid 'Abd-al-Karim Salih, security officer in the office of the governor of Kordofan, west Sudan, has emphasized that he has submitted an application for political asylum in Switzerland. He vehemently attacked government policies in Kordofan, especially in the al-Nubah mountains area.

Lt. Khalid is brother of (retired) Major General Sayyid al-Husayni 'Abd-al-Karim, present governor of Kordofan. [passage omitted]

Lt. Khalid said that government sources "have for a year been implementing a carefully studied plan to empty the al-Nubah mountains area of its indigenous population by carrying out military and security campaigns whose first aim is to destroy the peaceful villages and kill the largest possible number of inhabitants." [passage omitted]

Trade Minister on Ties With West, Elections

NC2510113593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 10

[Excerpts] Sudanese Trade Minister Taj al-Sirr Mustafa [name and title as published] has announced that the constitutional change represented by the dissolution of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the installation of RCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir as president was expected, although not now. He explained that the general election for which preparations are being made will not be held on the basis of a multiparty system, but on the principle of local congresses and a federal congress. He said the model might be similar to the Libyan system of Basic People's Congresses. He added that the election will produce new leaders able to compete even for the post of president.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR conducted during a stopover in Beirut en route to Damascus to attend an economic conference, Taj al-Sirr said his country's crisis with the West, particularly with the United States, is easing, especially after the United States suspended its anti-Sudan campaign, which used to involve accusations that Sudan supports terrorism.

Commenting on Sudan's domestic situation, particularly the economy, Taj al-Sirr referred to the recent government decision to float the Sudanese pound against the U.S. dollar and adopt two exchange rates: an official rate of 215 pounds to the dollar and a (black) market rate of 300 pounds to the dollar. The government's earlier policy of adopting a single exchange rate caused confusion in the market and in investment because of the increasing differences between the official and real rates.

The Sudanese minister ascribed the dollar's rise against the local currency to several factors, including the large sums paid for oil purchases. This was caused by Libya ending its preferential treatment in oil supplies to Sudan because of the "Lockerbie" issue. Taj al-Sirr denied Sudan is getting similar treatment from Iran. [passage omitted]

On domestic wages, he explained that the minimum wage is nearly 5,500 pounds (2,200 in base pay and the rest in allowances), that is, a little over $20 [no timeframe given]. He said, however, that this does not affect living standards in Sudan, which remain better than in many other countries, because prices are low, particularly those of basic commodities and gasoline. Asked about popular pressure on the regime because of the shortages of basic commodities, he said the Sudanese people are a politicized and

fearless nation and when the people decide to do something they go ahead and do it. If they wanted to remove the current regime tomorrow, they would. [passage omitted]

He remarked that Sudan's current trade is chiefly with Western Europe, to a lesser extent with the United States, and also with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. He said efforts are under way to promote increased transactions with Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. He explained that the country has trade relations with African and Asian countries and neighboring states, but its main trading partner now is Saudi Arabia.

Taj al-Sirr said his country has made many efforts to solve its dispute with Egypt over the Hala'ib area, but the negotiations on this issue are currently at a halt because Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is preoccupied with the Middle East peace effort.

SUNA Signs Cooperation Accord With ZNA

EA2210185093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 22 October (SUNA)—An agreement had been signed here Friday [22 October] in the cooperation of exchanging news services between SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, SUNA, and ZIMBABWEAN NEWS AGENCY [ZNA].

General manager of SUNA al-Tayyib Mustafa signed on behalf of Sudan while his Zimbabwean counterpart signed on behalf of his country. The agreement gave the priority to both sides to exchange news services [rather] than depending on the international news agencies in covering the two countries accidents [as received].

The two sides agreed on avoiding the news that disgraces the both countries in dealing with the news of foreign mass media besides supporting the correspondents of the two news agencies by providing them [with] the necessary services and exchange of technical and press training in addition to exchanging of experiments and visits.

Mr. Hennery [as received] hailed the developments in the Sudanese science under the shadow of the National Salvation Revolution and called for boosting of the informational cooperation while al-Tayyib Mustafa expressed SUNA's readiness in further cooperation with [the] ZIMBABWEAN NEWS AGENCY.

It is to be noted that Mr. Hennery was arrived here in 13 October in a 10-day visit to the Sudan responding [to] the invitation of SUNA. During the visit he conducted interviews with the president of the republic, General 'Umar al-Bashir, and the Transitional National Assembly speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

Tunisia

Former Communist Party To Take Part in Election

LD2510210993 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] A statement by the constituent assembly of the Progressive Democratic Movement for Renewal [formerly the Tunisian Communist Party] announced that it met on 24 and 25 October to review various important political and organizational issues.

By a large majority, the assembly decided to actively participate in the next legislative elections [due in 1994] because it was a political battle which the Progressive Democratic Movement must enter in order to make itself known, to guarantee that the elections were run correctly, and to provide credibility and transparency to the electoral process.

The assembly called on national, democratic, and progressive forces to prepare for participation in all stages of the elections within the framework of wide and open lists provided or supported by the renewal movement. The assembly approved the setting up of a program to bolster the presence of the movement in all areas, organizationally and politically.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Burundi Coup

LD2210215193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Following events in the Republic of Burundi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement: Tunisia has received with the utmost displeasure the news of the military coup that deposed President Melchior Ndadaye of the Republic of Burundi. Tunisia, which believes in the principles of democracy and the wishes of peoples in running their affairs through democratic institutions, strongly condemns this coup d'etat, which has destroyed the basis of the democratic process established by the free and fair presidential elections held last June in this brotherly African country in the presence of observers from numerous countries and under the auspices of the OAU, and which led to the election of President Ndadaye, who worked to achieve a national pact in Burundi.

Tunisia emphasizes the necessity of returning to constitutional legitimacy in Burundi and of enabling its people to continue the process of democracy, so that they may devote all their efforts toward development and progress away from the tribal conflicts, which are likely to threaten security and stability in this country and region.

Kuwait

Cape Verde President Begins Official Visit

LD2510205193 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpts] A ceremony was held at the Bayan palace at 1000 this morning to receive President Antonio Monteiro Mascarenhas of the Republic of Cape Verde and the delegation accompanying him, who arrived in the country yesterday evening on a 4-day official visit. [passage omitted]

Official talks were held between the two sides. Minister of Amiri Affairs Shaykh Nasir al-Muhammad al-Ahmad said that the talks had covered developments in bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, issues related to the Horn of Africa, and a number of issues of common concern. The negotiations were held in a cordial atmosphere marked by mutual understanding and a spirit of friendship.

Oman

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives, Holds Talks

JN2510161393 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Omani representatives led by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and a Sudanese delegation headed by Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, the Sudanese minister of foreign affairs, held an official round of talks at the Foreign Ministry in Muscat this morning. They discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways of promoting them. They also tackled issues of mutual interest.

The Sudanese foreign minister arrived in the country early this morning on an official 4-day visit to the sultanate.

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni Delegation Arrives for Border Talks

LD2610094393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Ja'far Basalih, head of the Yemeni side in the joint Saudi-Yemeni experts committee on the borders, and the members of the Yemeni side in the committee, arrived this afternoon in Riyadh to complete the talks of the previous rounds of negotiations, the last of which was the fifth round in Ta'izz. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Afghan President Urges Reconstruction Aid

JN2310202293 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 29

[By 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Uthman]

[Text] In a news conference yesterday [19 October in Abu Dhabi], Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani called on sisterly states to support Afghanistan as it embarks on a campaign of building, reconstruction, and development after the communist aggression destroyed the Afghan infrastructure and economy.

The Afghan president said that his country has entered a delicate phase in its history and that it is facing a new challenge that differs from the one that existed during the days of jihad. He said that the current challenge is to rebuild Afghanistan after it suffered comprehensive destruction. He stressed that his country now needs at least $4 billion to resettle over 7 million Afghan refugees who either fled abroad or moved from one area to another inside Afghanistan to escape the comprehensive destruction that hit their areas. He said that this money will be used to provide relief requirements, such as food, accommodation, roads, electricity, telecommunications, reconstruction of dams, and agriculture.

The Afghan president said that he will visit Egypt in response to a personal invitation by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He said that he will also visit Turkmenistan and that he received an invitation from President Yeltsin to visit Russia.

In response to a question, the Afghan president said that during his visit to Russia, he will demand compensation for the destruction that was caused by the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

He said that any charity or humanitarian organizations that wish to work in Afghanistan are welcome provided that they act as such. He said that the Afghanis are still a model for mujahidin. He said that the recent inter-Afghan fighting was a passing incident behind which there was a plot aimed at distorting the image of the mujahidin. However, he did not say who stands behind such a plot, noting that at least 500,000 regular troops and loyalists to the former regime are in possession of weapons and aim to undermine the Islamic state in Afghanistan.

In response to a question, he reaffirmed that his government wishes to establish good relations with any willing state, provided that it does not interfere in Afghanistan's domestic affairs. He praised U.S. stands and support for the mujahidin during the phase of jihad. He said: Humanitarian stands by other nations are required, but we do not permit political interference in our affairs.

At the end of his news conference, the Afghan president paid tribute to all Arab and Islamic states that supported the Afghan people's jihad until they managed to establish an Islamic state.

He said that most of those who took part in jihad in Afghanistan came after they obtained their governments' approval. He said that Afghanistan seeks security and stability for itself and for all Arab and Islamic states. He said that it will not permit any problems to be created for any Islamic or Arab state. He said that any firms willing to take part in reconstruction projects in Afghanistan are welcome.

Yemen

Foreign Minister on Mitterrand Visit, Arab Ties

JN2510203893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by radio correspondent Ahmad Birru, carried within the "Today's Guest" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Your Excellency Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah: Less than six months have passed since you assumed the post of foreign minister. What changes have taken place in the Yemeni foreign policy under the new government? And what are the guidelines for Yemeni foreign policy?

[Basindwah] In each country's foreign policy there are firm principles and there are changes. With regard to the Yemeni foreign policy, the firm principles have not changed and will not change. However, with regard to the methods and techniques of implementation, a change might occur, in fact, a change really took place.

I believe that the general outlines of our foreign policy are based on respecting the independence and sovereignty of all countries and not interfering in other countries' affairs, provided that others treat us the same way. In other words, our sovereignty and independence should be respected.

We also place pan-Arab interests over our national interests and seek to mend Arab relations and restore bridges with all Arab brothers in order to achieve a comprehensive Arab solidarity.

[Birru] On the international level, general satisfaction was expressed in major Western capitals with the success of the Yemeni democratic experiment. This satisfaction was embodied in the visit to Yemen by French President Francois Mitterrand, who declared his support for and encouragement to the Yemeni march. What is your assessment of this visit and what are its results?

[Basindwah] You know that France is a major country that has a major position in the world. And French President Francois Mitterrand is considered an influential leader in this world. Undoubtedly, his visit has major political significance. We are proud of his visit and of our country's relations with France.

Material returns are not the only important thing. We were more interested in seeing relations between Yemen and the French Republic strengthened on all levels. You probably saw President Mitterrand in Yemen meeting with the people and talking freely with them. This has strengthened our feeling that France holds a special amity and appreciation for Yemen.

[Birru] Regarding Yemen's Arab relations, it is reported that Muhammad Salim Basindwah enjoys a special regard from many Gulf states. How was this translated into reality, in terms of relations with these states, and do you plan any visits to these states?

[Basindwah] If I enjoy special standing in the Gulf states or special respect from Gulf officials, then this is something I am proud of. I do not feel this is a point against me. I felt that the sisterly Gulf states have welcomed my appointment as foreign minister, and I would like this attitude to be reflected in relations with my country, Yemen. At any rate, I will try to employ my personal ties with many officials in the sisterly and neighboring Gulf states, as far as I can, to strengthen Yemen's ties with these neighboring and sisterly states, which are dear to us.

[Birru] The standing issues with Saudi Arabia—the border issues, the talks that are decelerating within the context of the border committee, economic issues and Yemenis who were working or wish to work in Saudi Arabia—how do you view these issues?

[Basindwah] We hope that Yemeni-Saudi relations will improve with time. We also hope this will happen soon, God willing. The border issue is currently under study and discussion, and we hope we will reach satisfactory solutions to this issue and improve our ties with our brothers in the Saudi Arabia in order to ensure successful and strong ties between the two countries in the future.

[Birru] What is Yemen's stand on developments in the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement? What is your evaluation of this agreement? And what assistance could Yemen extend in the Palestinian arena?

[Basindwah] Yemen will never hesitate to extend every possible assistance to our Palestinian brothers. Despite its own difficult circumstances, Yemen stood alongside the Palestinians.

As for the Gaza-Jericho agreement, it is a Palestinian affair. We support what the Palestinian brothers decide, and we do not interfere in other people's choices. This is the Palestinians' right and it is their issue. We support what they decide. Needless to say, we are committed to the resolution adopted at the Arab summit held in Riyadh in 1974, which stipulates recognizing the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Gaza-Jericho agreement does not mean that peace has been achieved. However, it is a step in the right direction. If this step is not followed by other steps, then the agreement will be deemed a failure and completely useless. But, if this agreement is followed by other serious steps and if Israel recognizes the Palestinians' right to restore all their territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, as well as their right to establish their independent national state, then one could say that peace will be achieved in the region.

I believe that no one should deny some Palestinians their right to oppose the agreement, because I believe that opposition is required and is legitimate, just as it is legitimate in Israel. For instance, the Likud party opposes the agreement. I also believe that the Arab countries should seek to prevent any clash between the Palestinians who support and those who oppose the agreement. For our part, we, in Yemen, are doing our best in this respect and

are looking forward to seeing peace prevail in the region. However, this peace should be a just, enduring, and comprehensive peace in which Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories whether from the Golan, southern Lebanon, or some Jordanian territories. Thank you.

GCP's 'Abd-al-Ghani on Workings of Coalition

PM2510145193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress, by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hamud Nasr in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What solutions have you secured to the disagreements between two of the three partners in the ruling coalition, namely the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], in light of the 18 points proposed by the YSP and the 19 points proposed by the GPC, and what are the points of agreement and disagreement between their positions?

['Abd-al-Ghani] The relationship between the GPC and the YSP began before unity, which they had the honor of achieving. They also agreed on a transitional period during which talks were held to strengthen relations between them. They reached the point of looking into unifying the two political organizations, so they signed an agreement in this connection before the recent elections.

The agreement—which was called the paper on alliance coordination toward unification—stipulated that constitutional reforms should be made after the elections, in addition to forming committees to lead the unification process between them. And as we saw, the elections brought three major parties to power, and it was decided that there be a coalition among them, so the three parties signed a document in this connection.

As for the constitutional reforms, an agreement was reached between the GPC and the YSP on them. It was an initial draft. When the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] emerged and became a partner in the coalition, it requested having a say in these reforms. And indeed a committee was formed following an agreement between the GPC and the YSP to reexamine the reforms. The YRG expressed its opinion of these reforms and demanded that some of what had been agreed, especially as regards the establishment of the Shura Council and the National Assembly, be amended. The YRG's opinion was espoused, hence the abolition of the Shura Council and the National Assembly. It was agreed that there be a head of state instead of a Presidential Council. The YRG also had an opinion regarding local administration or government. A compromise was reached, and the three parties agreed on it.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the compromise which was agreed?

['Abd-al-Ghani] It was to do with the election of governors and directors of the directorates. The matter had been agreed between the GPC and the YSP, but the YRG saw that it was premature to elect governors and directors of the directorates, saying that that could be done in the future and that, instead of stipulating the election of governors and directors of the directorates in the Constitution, these details should be left to the law, and that the word "election" should be replaced by the word "selection." That is, the Constitution should stipulate that "the law will determine the method of selecting governors of the governorates and directors of the directorates." There is no fundamental disagreement. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In other Arab countries' experience, when they announced political pluralism, the president of the republic became leader of the ruling party. When another ruling party was formed and headed by the president, members of the previous party joined it. What do you think the situation would be with regard to the GPC if the president leaves it and forms another party, or if he resigns?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We do not want the brother president to resign from the GPC. Of course, he is the president of all Yemenis. In his practices he proceeds from this premise, namely he is not the president of the GPC only.

In his official practices, he treats all people the same—which sometimes angers some GPC members. An example of this is when the president supports an area in which there is no strong GPC presence, or when he sets up a project in a certain area during a visit to it outside the general plan. This angers some GPC members. He tells them "no, I am responsible for all people." However, we in the GPC consider him a great asset for the GPC.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] When the president donates these projects to some quarters, do GPC members not tell those whom he granted the project "it is we who granted you this project?"

['Abd-al-Ghani] No, no, since that is done because he is the head of state, and there is no linkage between the GPC and the head of state or between a project and the GPC. There is complete separation between official and partisan dealings. Without doubt the GPC cannot exist without the president, because the president has been its secretary general since its establishment. Through his personality he attracts many citizens to the GPC.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The 18 points submitted by the YSP to the ruling coalition included a proposal calling for the resignation of the president, the vice president, and the House of Representative speaker from their parties in order to form a general national authority outside the partisan framework. Are we to understand from your statements that accepting this proposal is out of the question?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Actually we have not yet discussed that proposal. That point was proposed when there was an

inclination to unify the the GPC and the YSP, but no decision was made on it. This point is still being raised. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us return to the Presidential Council's decision on the election of 'Ali Salim al-Bid as vice president. Do you believe that this decision is in Yemen's interests, and, if yes, why?

['Abd-al-Ghani] Yes. Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih nominated brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid as his deputy, and the Presidential Council agreed that al-Bid become vice president. Of course, it is in Yemen's interests for brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid to be the brother president's deputy. Because 'Ali Salim al-Bid is a national figure who participated with his brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in establishing the Republic of Yemen. For this reason, the brother president nominated him, and the Presidential Council agreed on him.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you mean that the Presidential Council agreed on him and did not elect him?

['Abd-al-Ghani] It agreed that he become vice president.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] So what is your explanation for the fact that 56 GPC deputies did not vote for al-Bid and Salim Salih in the Presidential Council elections? Was that done in the framework of a partisan orientation to put pressure on the YSP, or is a section of the GPC opposed to rapprochement with the YSP?

['Abd-al-Ghani] It is strange to say that deputies voted for a certain candidate in a secret ballot, because no one knows for whom any deputy voted.

We as a coalition agreed to vote for the coalition candidates. And indeed we instructed our members in the House of Representatives the night before—when the Permanent (central) Committee held a meeting and elected GPC candidates for the Presidential Council—to vote for the coalition candidates, be they from the YSP, the YRG, or the GPC. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The president said that the issue of unifying the Army falls in the framework of the process of completely rebuilding the the Armed Forces. But numerous circles say that certain elements in the Armed Forces have ambitions and are resisting the Army's unification because it would destroy their centers of power and influence. What truth is there in this?

['Abd-al-Ghani] We believe that just as the state organs that were divided have been unified, the Army and the security organ must be unified. It is a national responsibility. It is the responsibility of the GPC, the YSP, the YRG, all the national forces, and all the Yemeni people. It is their responsibility to have a unified army.

This issue is included in the government's program. It is one of the issues to which the government will devote special interest. And we confidently believe it is important to begin to discuss this issue now, in order to achieve the unification of this important establishment in our country.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But are there no centers of power opposed to the unification process because they fear for their interests?

['Abd-al-Ghani] When we talk about centers of power, we find that this phrase is expandable. It does not point to a specific person or persons. However, every patriotic person who cares about the homeland's interests and issues should support the Armed Forces' unification, because Armed Forces are formed from Yemen's sons, who care about Yemen's interests, and their unification is in Yemen's interests. So it is a national responsibility, for whose achievement everyone must work.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] As a Yemeni official, what is your opinion of the YSP's demand that military units be withdrawn from the capital and the major cities?

['Abd-al-Ghani] That issue is proposed by the brothers in the YSP. But in conditions like Yemen's we believe that the country—especially as the people are still armed and in view of the need to provide security and stability—need the Armed Forces to remain around the cities. When there is a need to move them out of the cities, there will be no objection. But at present we actually see no harm in the presence of armed forces around Sanaa and Aden or around any other cities, especially as Yemenis still have firearms. When people reduce their arms, the armed forces' positions could be moved to somewhere else; there is no disagreement about that. [passage omitted]

Romania's Iliescu Arrives, Views Cooperation

JN2210200893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency Romanian President Ion Iliescu arrived in Sanaa this afternoon leading a high-ranking delegation on an 2-day official visit to our country. Yemen's guest was accorded an official and popular welcome. [passage omitted]

The Romanian president made a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', in which he explained that his visit to our country falls within the framework of existing bilateral political cooperation and aims to open new horizons for these relations. He added that his visit to our country comes in the wake of political changes in Romania aimed at establishing a democratic system and state of law in Romania. He noted that this process has witnessed a transformation from a centralized economy to a free and market-oriented economy.

The Romanian president said: Our visit comes at a very important time for friendly Yemen after it has achieved its unity. We hold Yemeni unity in high esteem. In view of these new circumstances, we want to discuss with Yemeni officials ways of finding new means to bolster economic and political relations.

The Romanian president referred to Romania's good experience in economic fields. He noted in particular the existence of many Romanian government companies that cooperate with Yemeni companies to construct power lines. He said: Now that Yemen has joined the club of oil-producing nations, it should be noted that Romania has a well-established experience in the manufacturing of oil equipment. He said: We and the United States were the first

states in the world to begin to explore and dig oil and manufacture the required equipment for that. He noted that Romanian-Yemeni economic relations will be enhanced. He also noted that the presence of many Yemeni students in Romania contributes to the ties between the two friendly peoples. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Salih

JN2210211093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Excerpt] A session of official talks was held at the Presidential Office at 1830 today between the Yemeni side, led by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and the Romanian side led by His Excellency Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

At the beginning of the session, the president welcomed the guest and indicated that this visit will significantly promote Yemeni-Romanian relations on the path of their consolidation in a way that will achieve the common interests and expand the horizons of cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields.

President Salih also pointed out that there are numerous fields and opportunities for joint cooperation and exchange between the two friendly countries.

The brother president reviewed the changes in our country since the Yemeni revolutions on 26 September 1962 and 14 October 1963, and the Yemeni people's struggle, which was crowned by reunifying the homeland on 22 May 1990 by peaceful and democratic means. He also reviewed the political and [words indistinct], which represent the national option for construction, modernization, and progress.

The brother president also pointed to the economic aspects and the fields of investment available in our country, which can be a basis for joint cooperation and exchange between the two friendly countries. He also stressed Yemen's principled positions on several international issues and developments, led by the developments of the peace process in the region and the situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia.

For his part, the Romanian president expressed thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome that he was given. He indicated that his visit aims at bolstering the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said the visit reflects eagerness to promote those relations and expand them in economic, cultural, technical, and other fields. He indicated that there are similarities between the two friendly countries' experiences and aspirations toward further advancement.

In his remarks, the Romanian president reviewed the changes that have taken place in Romania since the revolution in December in 1989. [words indistinct] the new Romanian [words indistinct] democratic options and economic freedom. He invited the brother chairman of the Presidential Council to visit Romania. The brother president accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be specified later.

During the session, the two sides reviewed the relations of cooperation between our country and Romania and ways of promoting them toward more advanced levels to meet the aspirations and interests of the two friendly peoples. They also discussed many issues and topics of interest to bilateral relations, including the activation of the Yemeni-Romanian joint committee. They also discussed international developments, particularly the developments in the peace process in the region. [passage omitted]

Cooperation, Other Issues Discussed

JN2310124393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] A session of talks was held at the Presidential Palace today between the Yemeni side led by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and the Romanian side led by Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

Presidential Council members 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani attended the talks.

During the session, the two sides completed discussion on issues discussed at last night's session and related to cooperation, relations between the two friendly countries, and means of promoting them in all fields, in addition to the latest developments in the international arena and issues of joint interest.

The two sides stressed their desire and concern to bolster cooperation in the interest of the two countries' friendly peoples. The two sides were also briefed on the results of the Yemeni-Romanian joint committee meetings, and expressed satisfaction with these results.

The two sides' viewpoints were identical on most of the issues discussed. [passage omitted]

Joint Cooperation Protocol Signed

JN2310130893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] A session of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry today between the Yemeni side led by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, and the Romanian side led by Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu.

During the session, the two sides discussed cooperation between the two friendly countries and means of promoting it in all fields. They also discussed preparations for the Yemeni-Romanian joint committee meetings.

Following the talks, the two sides signed a joint protocol of cooperation between the two friendly countries' foreign ministries.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Romanian charge d'affaires in Sanaa attended the talks.

Romanian President Departs

JN2310130593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Romanian President Ion Iliescu and his delegation left Sanaa today following a 2-day visit to our country. [passage omitted]

Aide Visits Moscow To Seek Easing of UN Sanctions

PM2510171193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 4

[Sami 'Imarah report: "Iraqi Official Visits Moscow To Persuade It To Ease Sanctions"]

[Text] Moscow, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources in the Russian capital have said that Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraqi deputy foreign minister, paid a lightning visit to Moscow recently to persuade Russian officials to work to ease the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The sources said that al-Qaysi met with a number of officials at the Russian Foreign Ministry and discussed with them the possibilities of Moscow's intervention to persuade the United States not to exert further pressure on Baghdad.

In this context al-Qaysi met with Oleg Davydov, the new minister of foreign economic relations, who was an attache at his country's embassy in Libya before assuming the post of first deputy minister. Sources said that questions concerning the completion of the "al-Yusufiyah" project and a previously agreed tractor factory project were discussed at the meeting. Sources say that Moscow might really address the Security Council's committees in order to get their approval for economic cooperation with Iraq and participation in completing the outstanding projects.

Meanwhile, Iraqi opposition sources in London yesterday said that the director of Iraqi intelligence secretly visited Moscow some time ago to assure the Russian leadership that the $7 million President Suddam Husayn paid to Ruslan Khasbulatov, speaker of the Russian parliament, were not for "conspiring against President Boris Yeltsin but for supporting the Russian Government."

A statement issued by the national committees for the salvation of Iraq says that Saddam Husayn sent the intelligence director to the Russian capital for fear that the matter of these sums might be revealed during the investigation currently being conducted with regard to Khasbulatov and the possibility of his standing trial on treason charges. The statement says that the intelligence director also visited Ukraine around the same time to follow up the process of purchasing military equipment.

Funding to Russian Parties 'Clarified'

PM2610122193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Jalal al-Mashtah report: "Director of Iraqi Intelligence Meets With Primakov; al-Qaysi Offers Deal To Ease Sanctions"]

[Excerpts] Moscow—AL-HAYAH has learned from sources very close to the Russian special organs that Sabir al-Duri, director of Iraqi intelligence, met during his visit to Moscow last week with both Yevgeniy Primakov, chief of the foreign intelligence organ, and Nikolay Golushko, minister of security.

The sources said that during his meeting with Primakov, al-Duri clarified Iraq's position in the light of reports about links between Baghdad and opposition leaders in Russia.

He confirmed the existence of contacts with a number of Russian organizations and figures. However, he pointed out that the Iraqi aid provided to them "was of a humanitarian nature." He denied that Baghdad had any link with any move opposed to President Boris Yeltsin. He emphasized Baghdad's interest in cooperation with Russia and its president.

A source at the Russian security Ministry has said that the name of Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, was not specifically mentioned during al-Duri's talks with Golushko. The sources added that the Iraqi sums were submitted to opposition forces of various inclinations in Russia.

A former official from the research center belonging to the Russian parliament, who declined to give his name because he is entering the elections, has told AL-HAYAH that he has information indicating that the parliament's leadership received sums from "Arab parties, among them Iraq."

He added that these sums passed through Gennadiy Birisadchinko [as transliterated], chairman of the parliament secretariat, and Anatoliy Melekhov, Khasbulatov's chief economic advisers.

He revealed that Melekhov, who supervised the organization of the "scientific cooperation conference" between Russia and the Arab countries, which was held under Khasbulatov's sponsorship, received during the conference sums which were not included in the parliament's budget.

The former official said that he resigned from his post early in the summer after attempts to implicate the parliamentary studies center in "suspect" operations. He pointed out that the parliament's leadership tried to use the center as a facade to spend on "unknown" aims and register the expenditures as allocations for research and studies.

It is worth mentioning that members of the Russian parliament had visited Iraq. Among them was Sergey Baburin, leader of the "Russian Unity" bloc. They organized a campaign to urge the lifting of the international sanctions imposed on Baghdad or the suspension of Russian participation in the implementation of the sanctions. This issue was a main pivot for talks held in Moscow by Riyad al-Qaysi, undersecretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, who is leaving the Russian capital today. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned from well-informed diplomatic sources that the Iraqi delegation asked Moscow to help to secure international approval for Iraq to export crude oil, and if these endeavors succeed it expects Baghdad to fulfill Russian oil commitments toward states among them India and Bulgaria.

The sources added that Moscow is considering an Iraqi request to present a new initiative at the Security Council to lift part of the sanctions imposed on Iraq. It has been learned that al-Qaysi is going to make contacts in Beijing and other capitals to secure support for the initiative, and that there are French pledges to take a position supporting Moscow if it decides to accept the Iraqi offer. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Said To Meet Israeli Official in Paris

PM2510174993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 4

['Adnan Husayn report: "Conflicting Reports About 'Aziz Meeting With Israeli Official in Paris"]

[Excerpt] London—Iraqi opposition sources yesterday confirmed reports that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with an Israeli Foreign Ministry official during his visit to Paris last week and that 'Aziz discussed the possibility of Iraq's joining the current peace process in the region.

Citing unidentified French Government officials, the sources said that the meeting, which took place with the knowledge and encouragement of French official circles, was held in Paris's 16th arrondissement and that the discussion focused on the possibility of Iraq's joining the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations to end the state of war existing between Iraq and Israel since 1948 and to resettle in Iraq some of the Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon.

The Iraqi opposition sources emphasized that at least one meeting took place in an Arab country last summer between Israeli officials and Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam Husayn's half-brother, political adviser, and Iraq's representative at the UN European center in Geneva. According to the same sources, Baghdad hopes that its contacts with Israeli officials will help improve relations with the United States and lift the economic sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait 2 August 1990.

The sources added that the Iraqi deputy prime minister told the Israeli official he met with in Paris that Iraq had no objection to joining the peace process and, later, ending the state of war and even reviving the plan to export Iraqi oil via Israel in the future if Israel played a part in lifting the embargo and in persuading the United States to drop its designs to overthrow President Saddam Husayn and also to end its political hostility toward him. [passage omitted]

Opposition Condemns Moves To Normalize Ties With Regime

NC2310204693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Conference [UINC] has issued a statement in London condemning the moves by some regional, Arab, and international parties to normalize relations with the Iraqi regime.

The statement referred to the visit by Tariq 'Aziz, the deputy prime minister of the Iraqi regime, to France and the exchange of visits by officials between Tehran, Baghdad, and Moscow.

The UINC statement said that these moves are connected to the pressures exerted by some oil and trade companies on their countries, adding that these companies want to serve their own narrow economic interests at the expense of the Iraqi people's security and freedom. It emphasized that these moves violate the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 688.

The statement called on Arab countries, other countries in the region, and the UN Security Council member states to tighten the Iraqi regime's isolation and help the Iraqi people and their national forces.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Iraq Command of Ba'th Party

JN2010184193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During its eight-hour meeting, the Command hosted the comrades members of the party branch commands of Mosul and Ninawa.

Holds 'Series of Meetings' With Members

JN2310182293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1754 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has held a series of meetings. The six-hour meetings were attended by the members of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and members of the senior cadre of the party.

Defense Minister Attends Air Force Exercise

JN2410184793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Al-Kut, 24 Oct (INA)—Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid attended the four-day military exercise, code named "The Hawks Assault," which was conducted by the Air Force hawks.

At the outset of the exercise, the air activity director, who holds the rank of a staff major general, gave a detailed briefing on the stages of the exercise, its objectives, and the lessons derived from it.

In a statement, the defense minister stressed the need of making military exercises as realistic as possible, including the valiant Air Force exercises. [passage omitted]

Release of 680 Palestinian Prisoners Under Way

TA2510120393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Some 680 Palestinian detainees and prisoners are being released today from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Prison Service lockup facilities. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the process began this morning. About 400 are inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria, while the remaining 280 are residents of the Gaza Strip.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 25 October adds: "Four petitions are being submitted to the High Court of Justice against the release of Palestinian prisoners. Each of the four petitioners, representing victims of Arab terror and other organizations, claims that freeing detainees is illegal and jeopardizes the safety of Israeli citizens. The government is said to have taken hasty steps because of political pressures.

["The Tzomet party has demanded that the charge sheet against each and every one of the released prisoners be published. Knesset Member Ronen Segev said the public was entitled to know on what charges the terrorists were imprisoned, as well as the criteria for their release."]

Rubinstein Holds Up Release of 23

TA2610062493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Prisoner releases continued last night. The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected four separate petitions calling for the releases to be stopped. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the territories says 320 Palestinian prisoners and detainees were released from Qezi'ot prison in the Negev, 17 from Gaza prison, 42 from Gaza Beach prison, and 22 from Ashqelon prison. Yesterday afternoon, 68 prisoners were released from Megiddo jail in the north. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources told Qol Yisra'el that in total, 660 Palestinians will be set free by the time the talks in Taba begin later today. The exact numbers will become clear only when reports begin to come in from Civil Administration centers in different parts of the territories.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 26 October reports that "Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, in his capacity as acting justice minister, said that he will receive the files of 23 Palestinian prisoners convicted by Israeli courts only this morning. Rubinstein said that he will examine each case individually before deciding whether to recommend that the prisoner be pardoned. Rubinstein declared that he is opposed to a sweeping amnesty."]

Rabin: Prisoner Release Commitments 'Will Be Upheld'

TA2510115993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] We now go over live to David Ze'ev in the Knesset for this report on a meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee:

According to a Knesset official at the closed-door committee meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the commitments made by Israel concerning the release of security prisoners will be upheld. Rabin said prisoners with blood on their hands will not be released, but he qualified that statement by saying: Certainly not in the near future. The premier said that was the message relayed to the Palestinians at the negotiating in Taba.

Prime Minister Rabin also told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Israel is now confronted with a phenomenon that will have to be dealt with: suicide attacks that characterize fanatic religious Islamic organizations. Rabin, appearing before the committee in his capacity as defense minister, said he believed the phenomenon would continue. Operating against the suicide attackers, said Rabin, is complicated because nothing deters them, certainly not the death penalty.

Likud members of the committee, Binyamin Netanyahu and Beni Begin, challenged the prime minister over the lack of a condemnation by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat of the attacks since last month's signing of the peace accord with the PLO. Begin is said to have waved a copy of the agreement in which 'Arafat pledges to do so, to condemn such attacks. But Rabin responded that just as I don't have to condemn every attack carried out by an Israeli, 'Arafat is not required to condemn attacks outside the PLO.

Rabin Affirms Responsibility for Order in Gaza

TA2310124193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Report by David Essing on the weekly "Spotlight—People and Issues in the News" program; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the Gaza Strip, another close associate of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was gunned down by Palestinian terrorists this week. As'ad al-Saftawi became the third peace activist to be assassinated recently. Al-Saftawi had also met with Prime Minister Rabin in the past. During his tour of the Gaza Strip [on 21 October], the prime minister expressed concern about the assassination:

[Rabin] "We are really worried about it, but we could not prevent it. It's still our responsibility to maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip. We are still the military government, the civil administration, and it's our responsibility —to the extent that it's possible—for all the people, Israelis and Palestinians alike. We'll continue our activities to do so till we reach an agreement about the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First, until it will be transferred to them, which is an additional four months or three months; I can't remember. It doesn't matter. This is the problem."

Overall, Rabin said that despite the myriad of details still to be resolved, the negotiators will shoot for their two-month deadline:

[Rabin] "We'll try our best in the negotiations in Taba to bring about an agreement that will make it possible in two

months. But, one has to bear in mind: We are talking about a withdrawal, but not a full or a total withdrawal."

The prime minister explained that the Gaza-Jericho First plan is not a total withdrawal, but an Israeli redeployment, pulling out of the densely populated Palestinian areas. Israel would retain overall responsibility for the security of the settlements, and this would also apply to the most complex aspect: protecting Israelis traveling on the roads of Gaza and Jericho.

[Rabin] "It will be the overall responsibility of Israel to the security of Israelis in the settlements and Israelis elsewhere in their work or movement in the Gaza Strip." [passage omitted]

Peres Hopes for Change in 'Tough' Syrian Attitude

TA2410094693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 24 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by Amnon Barzilay, Eldad Beck, Nirit Zakh, and Natan Gutman in Washington]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the deadlock along the Syrian track continues. "Although the Syrians made a strategic decision in favor of talks with Israel, it will take time for them to soften up," Peres stressed in an interview with HADASHOT.

In Peres' view, the Washington peace talks will not be resumed before the end of November. The foreign minister noted that postponing them gives more time to convince the Syrians to join. "Only on the basis of the contacts with Syria will it be decided whether to convene the peace talks with Jordan and the Palestinians in Washington," Peres said.

The foreign minister told an election rally in Or 'Aqiva that Syria is using tough tactics in the peace negotiations with Israel, and he hopes that it will soon change its attitude. "Syria has a peace strategy and wants Israel to agree to its conditions prior to the negotiations, and that is unacceptable. We aspire to manifest and genuine peace."

On the negotiations with Jordan, Peres said: "We will have to wait until the Jordanian elections on 8 November in order to see what happens in the talks with Jordan."

Dennis Ross, head of the American peace team, yesterday reported to Israel's Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich on the outcome of his talks in Damascus with President al-Asad.

Rabinovich convened the top officers at the embassy on Saturday to analyze the visit, but Washington sources reported that there were no dramatic breakthroughs. Israel stressed to Ross that it does not reject the possibility of making progress along the Syrian track and that it is still interested in achieving a peace settlement with Syria. That clarification follows American disappointment over the position of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres that Israel sees no urgent need to advance along the Syrian track. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 24 October in a page 1 report by Drora Perl in Washington, Dan Avidan, and news agencies writes that Prime Minister Rabin explained to Dennis Ross "the political-coalition pressures under which he is operating, and that the Israelis received the impression that he managed to convince the Americans that he is incapable of making dramatic moves on the Syrian front. That is also the message Ross relayed to the Syrians."]

Peres Supports Jordanian Dinar as Legal Tender

TA2410111893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Oct 93 p A5

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres supports introducing the Jordanian dinar as legal tender in Israel alongside the shekel within the framework of a regional economic settlement that would include Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians. "We should not rule out such a possibility," Peres said in answer to a question. "Personally, I am in favor, but the government has not yet taken a stand on the matter."

On Friday [22 October], the foreign minister addressed newspaper editors and managers from around the world participating in the gathering held by the group of newspapers belonging to World Media Syndicate. HA'ARETZ, which is the current host, held the gathering at Jerusalem's King David Hotel.

Asked about a Palestinian request to introduce a separate Palestinian currency under the self-government in the territories, Peres emphasized: "I do not know." He noted that under the accord, the dinar and the shekel will remain the legal tender on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip during the self-rule.

Peres expressed optimism about the chances of Israel and the PLO reaching a compromise on the area belonging to the "Jericho region," despite the enormous gap in the opening positions of the two sides. Referring to the permanent settlement, Peres said he does not see any reason why the settlements should not stay where they are under Arab rule, "just as Arab settlements exist in Israel under Jewish rule."

In response to a question on the recent spate of murders in Gaza, the foreign minister said he is sure that when they take charge, the Palestinians will know how to run their affairs successfully. Israel made a mistake, he said, in trying to serve as "the policeman of the Palestinians" and in wanting to chose their representatives.

Peres spoke about Syria with a tone of obvious disappointment. "I believe the Syrians made a strategic decision to take the path of peace, but they are unprepared to draw the necessary conclusions from that decision in principle. President al-Asad understands the significance of the major changes taking place in the world on an intellectual level, but he does not show the emotional readiness required to adopt the new rules called for by these changes. Al- Asad is put off by negotiations. He tries to divert the

negotiations along a narrow channel, which does not allow the necessary freedom of maneuver. He thinks he can dictate to us his positions."

Syria's position, which calls for symmetry on all matters of demilitarization and thinning out of forces, is "utterly stupid." "Without security arrangements that we consider reasonable and without a clear concept of the components of the peace, there is no chance that our public will permit us to propose concessions to Syria."

Compared to the mounting difficulties in the negotiations with Syria, Peres noted that Israel "is very interested in completing the negotiations with Jordan, with which we have already signed an agreed agenda." Peres called Jordan "the third side in the Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian triangle. We feel that we have to complete our agreement with the Palestinians by signing a peace accord with Jordan."

In warning against the Iranian danger, Peres called on the European states to support the U.S. policy aimed at restraining the aggressive tendencies of Iran and Iraq. "Europe must help the effort and prevent Iran from becoming a crazy nuclear state." Peres believes that "the collapse of Khomeynism is assured: It is only a question of time."

Savir, PLO Official Meet Secretly in London

TA2510184993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] A high-level Israeli official, apparently Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, participated in talks over the weekend with Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the PLO's "finance minister." The talks were also attended by Larsen, the Norwegian assistant foreign minister. The three were involved in the "Oslo process" which brought about the breakthrough in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Toward the end of last week Savir left for Budapest to attend a gathering of Israeli ambassadors from Eastern and Western Europe. It seems Savir used this gathering as a cover for the secret meeting in London. As is known, Savir and Abu-al-'Ala' headed the Israeli and Palestinian delegations that signed the "document of principles" in Oslo after long negotiations. The reason for the meeting in London is not entirely clear, but the very fact that it was held shows that the two sides continue to maintain a secret channel via the Norwegians. The meeting may have been designed to deal with bilateral issues that one or both sides do not want to raise in the liaison committee in Cairo since its sessions are attended by numerous participants on both sides.

A senior source said the meeting had to do with the meeting of the donor countries to the PLO scheduled to be held in Paris in early November. As is known, when they met in Washington after the signing of the "Document of Principles" these countries chose Norway as chairman of the ad hoc commission in charge of raising funds and transferring them to the PLO. The United States, through the World Bank, and the European Community are vying for the chairmanship of the permanent committee that will distribute the funds.

Fatah, PFLP Clash; IDF Captures 'Wanted Man'

TA2310202793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Clashes occurred today in the Gaza Strip between the Fatah Hawks and rival members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. In Rafah, Fatah members shot and injured a 27-year-old supporter of the PFLP. The Fatah Hawks retaliated by imposing a house arrest on PFLP supporters [sentence as heard]. Three PFLP activists were also beaten.

Also in the Gaza Strip, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces captured Muhin Muhammad al-Masri, a 27-year-old resident of Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. Al-Masri, who is one of the senior PFLP commanders in the territories, was wanted by the authorities. A man accompanying him was also arrested.

Car Bomb Attack Thwarted in Gaza Strip 25 Oct

TA2510135493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] An attempt to carry out a terror attack with a car bomb was thwarted this morning in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a Peugeot driven by a local inhabitant collided with several vehicles, including a Civil Administration car and a Prison Service vehicle. Two Prison Service employees were slightly injured. The driver of the car attempted to flee, but he was shot, wounded, and subsequently arrested. Israel Police and Border Police bomb disposal experts were summoned to the scene. The Peugeot turned out to be booby-trapped with explosives and gas cylinders, and the experts safely detonated it.

Rabin Apologizes to Uzbek President for Canceled Visit

TA2510124593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has sent a letter to Uzbekistan's president apologizing for flying to Indonesia at the last minute, instead of stopping over in Tashkent on his way home from China. Rabin hoped he would be able to visit Uzbekistan in the future.

Egyptian Energy Minister Arrives for Conference

TA2510095193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In Herzliyya, a first-of-its-kind conference on energy in peacetime will open this morning. It will be attended by Israeli, Palestinian, and Egyptian experts who will discuss options of cooperation between Israel and the autonomy, and between Israel and its neighbors.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Egypt's minister of electricity and energy arrived in Israel last night, and started negotiating the possibilities of extending the amount of oil Egypt has been selling Israel. He will also discuss placing a gas pipe from Egypt to Israel.

Egypt's Basyuni Expects Accord With Syria in 3 Months

TA2410113693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni says he hopes Israel will sign a declaration of principles with Syria and Lebanon within three months. There is no alternative to progress in the peace talks, Basyuni said. Basyuni was speaking to reporter No'omi Segal at the conference From War to Peace being held at the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University.

[Begin recording] [Basyuni] We started the peace process, and I hope that during three months we'll reach declaration of principles with the Syrians, with the Lebanese. Now, as you know, that it is already a declaration of principles or agenda with the Jordanians, with Palestinians, so I hope to reach a declaration of principles with the Syrians during three months, because the goal is comprehensive peace. So I do believe that it is very important to achieve progress with the Syrians also.

[Segal] Do you think Rabin and al-Asad will be meeting soon?

[Basyuni] The meeting itself is not the problem. We must prepare for this meeting before. To have a successful and fruitful meeting, we must prepare for this meeting and to be sure that the results of this meeting will be useful and fruitful because the expectation is very high. [end recording]

Irish Embassy Planned; Spain Ends Need for Visas

TA2410095493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem received reports over the weekend about additional positive developments in the wake of the Israeli-PLO agreement. The Government of Ireland decided to set up a permanent embassy in Israel and to permit Israel to open an embassy in Dublin. The Spanish Government decided to cancel the need for visas for visiting Israelis.

The Spanish Government's decision was transmitted over the weekend to Israeli Ambassador Ya'aqov Kohen. Political sources in Jerusalem believe that the Spanish move is an expression of gratitude to Israel and is linked to the visit of King Carlos in November.

King Meets American Jewish Congress Delegation

JN2610074593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today a group of American Jewish Congress members who are on a tour of a number of Arab countries aimed at bolstering the peace process and giving it a push forward. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting.

His majesty reiterated to the delegation members the constants of Jordan's stance toward various regional and international issues, particularly those related to Jordan's support for the peace process and its eagerness to establish a just and comprehensive peace in this region and the entire world.

It is worth noting that this group has previously visited Egypt and Tunisia. It arrived in Amman today from Saudi Arabia.

Details of Meeting Disclosed

JN2610110093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Oct 93 pp 1,3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan Monday reaffirmed its position that the Arab boycott of Israel could not be dealt with separately from the overall Middle East conflict and urged the Jewish lobby in Washington to use its political influence towards a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Isareli conflicts, an informed source said.

The source said the reaffirmation came during a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and an American Jewish delegation, which arrived here on the third leg of a Middle East tour aimed at easing the secondary effect of the boycott of Israel—a ban on firms trading with Israel and having close links with Israel.

Reporting the meeting, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King reaffirmed Jordan's stand vis-a-vis regional and international issues and reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to the Middle East peace process towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region and the entire world.

Petra did not give details, but the reference to Jordan's stands and commitment to a just and comprehensive peace in the region implied a reiteration of the position that the issue of the boycott of Israel and other byproducts of the Arab-Israeli conflict could only be tackled as part of an overall settlement in the region, analysts said.

"Jordan's position is clear," said the source. "It views all the issues linked with the Arab-Israeli conflict as a complete package and would not accept to deal with these issues piecemeal without a clear perception of Israeli economic objectives."

"Israel has to respect the right of others in the region and their economic integrity," added the source, noting that Israel was applying a boycott of Jordanian products by preventing their entry into the West Bank.

It is estimated that Jordan bought Palestinian products from the occupied territories worth $1.4 billion since 1967, when Israel occupied the area. But the Kingdom's exports to the Palestinians were zero because of the Israeli ban.

This is an issue expected to be raised during the first meeting, expected next month on the fringes of the 13th round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, of the newly created Jordanian-American economic working group.

During Monday's meeting, Jordan also called on the visiting American delegation to use the Jewish community's influence in U.S. political circles, particularly the ruling Democratic Party, in favour of finding a comprehensive and lasting settlement between Israel and the Arabs, the source, said.

In essence, the Kingdom's position is that it is in the interest of American businessmen and political groups to seek a comprehensive agreement to the Arab-Israeli conflict since all related issues could be tackled once such a framework is worked out, the source said.

The team's meeting with the King was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir, the King's adviser Yanal Hikmat, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad al-'Anani and Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Fayiz al-Tarawinah.

Even before the delegation arrived officials and analysts said it was unlikely that the team would score any success in convincing Jordan to ease the application of the boycott of Israel.

Clinton administration officials have said that Washington was pushing the idea of a gradual lifting of the Arab embargo on Israel through eliminating the secondary boycott under which Arab countries refuse to deal with companies doing business with the Jewish state.

Prince Hasan, in an Oct. 1 press conference in Washington, said it would be "economic suicide" for the Arabs to lift the embargo without gaining anything substantial for the Arab World.

"There is no shift in the Jordanian position," a senior official said last week. "The boycott of Israel is not a Jordanian issue alone. It is a pan-Arab decision related to pan-Arab interests and Jordan would not take any step without pan-Arab consensus on the move."

Prince Hasan, addressing a conference in Amman Monday, reiterated that the boycott was closely linked to the Middle East conflict and the embargo could be dealt with only within an "integrated framework of security and cooperation involving all parties and peoples."

The American delegation is scheduled to hold talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan today. The team will also meet with Jordanian businessmen.

The U.S. delegation flew to Jordan with only strong Saudi backing for the Middle East peace process.

The Saudis were "very desirous of peace and wanted it to succeed," Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview at the end of the four-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

The group of 10 Jewish leaders representing a cross section of the business and legal fields met with a number of senior Saudi officials, including Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, intelligence chief Prince al-Turki al-Faysal, Commerce Minister Sulayman al-Sulayyim and Minister of Islamic Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Turki.

The delegation included one woman, former attorney general designate Zoe Baird.

The Jewish group was hosted by the Saudi Chamber of Commerce for dinner one evening and visited a number of Saudi businessmen.

Mr. Lifton said the Arab boycott was discussed "within the context of it impeding American joint ventures with Arab firms" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as they gain autonomy from Israel under the Sept. 13 agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jewish state.

He said a strong case was made against the boycott in the territories. The group pointed out that American companies were wary of running afoul of U.S. anti-boycott legislation in teaming up with Arab firms to invest in the area, he said.

Also, said Mr. Lifton, "we made the point that steps should be taken, signals given, that would encourage the Israelis." But, he added, they heard "no affirmation of what the Saudis would do."

Mr. Lifton noted that Jewish group had noticed a definite "change in attitude" towards the peace process since their first visit to the kingdom over a year and half ago.

He said they had detected an "underlying optimism" on the part of the Saudis. "They think the breakthough was really a breakthrough."

The Saudis also gave the American group the opportunity to tour different regions in the country, including the mountainous 'Asir region in the southwest and the oil-producing Eastern Province.

Iranian Ambassador Presents Credentials to King

LD2610102893 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Oct 26 (IRNA)—Iran's Ambassador to Amman Ahmad Dastmalchian, submitted his credentials to King Husayn of Jordan, Tuesday.

Dastmalchian was previously ambassador in Lebanon.

2 UNIFIL Soldiers Hurt as Vehicle Shelled

NC2510205193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] AFP reported tonight that two UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] soldiers were wounded in south Lebanon when their armored personnel carrier came under fire. UNIFIL has not yet commented on the incident.

UNIFIL Spokesman Explains 25 Oct Mishap

NC2610095293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Timor Goksel, official spokesman of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], has stated that the accident that occurred on Zibqin-al-Butum mountain yesterday involved a motorbike and a UNIFIL water tank, leaving the rider of the motorbike dead and injuring another. The family of the dead man expressed their regrets over the gunfire directed at the Nepalese UNIFIL post in the area. The post received direct hits, but there were no casualties. The incident was handled by Lebanese Army officers from the Tyre barracks and UNIFIL officers.

In another isolated incident, Goksel said that a Nepalese troop carrier with seven personnel overturned as a result of a breakdown on the Zibqin-al-Butum mountain, leaving four personnel injured.

Foreign Minister Terms Ross Tour 'Failure'

NC2610075293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Amid reports on an expected visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that the latest tour by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, was a failure. He said that the talks among Lebanon, Syria, and Israel have been postponed. In a statement to AFP yesterday, he said that Ross came to obtain an Israeli-Lebanese- Syrian declaration of principles but failed to achieve his objective. He added: We are faced with a postponement of the talks but not a deadlock.

Buwayz said that the Israelis advised Ross that the Syrian file is very sensitive to Israel and that they are not yet prepared for domestic political reasons to accept immediate progress. He noted that Israel believes that if it is inevitable to make progress on a certain front, it is better to do it with Jordan because this track does not involve ceding territory. He pointed out that the Israelis wish to postpone negotiations with Damascus and Beirut for five or six months. I believe, he said, that the Americans can reduce the period to two months.

Botched Peacekeeping Bodes Ill for U.S. 'Peacemaking'

NC2510125693 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Deputy Chief Editor Muhammad Mashmushi: "A Likely or Inevitable Prospect!"]

[Text] A U.S. contradiction lies in its acknowledging that its "peacekeeping" role in the world is suffering one defeat after the other in Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia-Herzegovina and at the same time claiming that its "peacemaking" role is scoring one achievement after another. U.S. President Bill Clinton, his Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Martin Indyk, National Security Council adviser [for Middle Eastern affairs], can't explain this contradiction except to say that "peacekeeping" is like quicksand for a superpower like the United States. They add that what is really appropriate for it to do and what it can do is to "make peace", as shown by the Israeli-Palestinian Gaza-Jericho-First agreement.

The U.S. interpretation involves a lot of political doublespeak and distortion of the facts for the simple reason that he who fails in "peacekeeping" must necessarily fail in "peacemaking", even if things appear different for some time. Similarly, the claim that a superpower, indeed the only superpower, as the United States is now, is a "maker" not a "maintainer" of peace and that maintenance should be left to mere technicians and underlings is merely a way of justifying impotence rather than expressing strength.

To cite only one example: If Somali General Mohamed Farah Aidid had complied with the U.S. orders to disarm his supporters and surrender to the "Marines", or if some Somali citizens mouth had watered for the reward set by the U.S. Administration for information leading to the arrest of "the warlord" as they called Aidid, would the United States interpret the superpower and the quagmire the same way as it does now? Conversely, would the White House have opened its doors wide and held a huge ceremony for the "terrorist" Yasir 'Arafat and his "vampirish" Palestinian organization if he had rejected the U.S.—or rather Israeli—proposal for a political settlement and insisted on continuing the armed struggle to liberate the occupied territories and regain the Palestinian people's rights? Would Gaza have deserved an international aid-and-donation collection conference as happened several weeks ago? Or would another type of conference, like so many others held under Washington's aegis, have been held to combat terrorism, especially of the Palestinian variety?

At any rate, our intention here is not to address 'Arafat or the Palestinian people, although this is important. Our aim here is to say that failure in "peacekeeping"—to use the usual term for the U.S. operations in Somalia and Haiti specifically and in Bosnia, a possibility being discussed in Washington—must necessarily cast doubt on the concerned party's "peacemaking" ability in other regions, particularly the Arab region. The Arabs, including the Palestinians, who signed what they termed "an achievement", and the opponents of the agreement, who called it "a defeat", who are pinning all their hopes, if not their fears too, on the United States, are not ignorant of this fact, but intentionally disregard it because it is a bitter fact. In these bitter Arab circumstances, they do not want to increase the bitterness, although they do not deny its existence!

The summary of the foregoing lies in this U.S. contradiction, among many others, because it is very significant for what the world will look like in the next few years. Now, the world is unipolar and this sole pole has an imbalanced outlook on every other country. As they whisper in Europe particularly, not many years will pass before this unipolarity will be broken or will fall apart by itself.

The U.S. contradiction between "peacekeeping" and "peacemaking" points exclusively to the last possibility. Some would call it an inevitability!

Anniversary of Marine Barracks Bombing Noted

NC2310091693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Today, 23 October, is the 10th anniversary of the martyrdom operation against the barracks of the [U.S.] Marines and the French paratroopers. The operation was in response to a brutal Zionist onslaught against Lebanon that was followed by a flagrant foreign occupation of the country on the pretext of protecting it. These operations proved that this nation can overpower the advanced machines of killing and destruction with its faith, self-sacrifice, and resolution to defend the dignity of Muslims and Islam.

In 1983, the invasion forces, baring their ugly faces and resuming their traditional role of oppressing nations, came bristling with arms to support the Zionist occupation forces besieging Beirut. The United States, in cahoots with its NATO allies, sent its Marines backed by large warships equipped with mighty weapons to steal the country and sap its will. America wanted to turn Lebanon into a knife aimed at the hearts of the Arabs and Muslims, some of whom were already trembling before the U.S. ogre and the Zionist beast. But this game was brought to a quick end.

The martyrs rose from the bosom of this nation to turn the tables and banish the specter of defeat. They died to prove that the homeland is alive with hope and headed to victory. Our country, as well as the entire world, looked on in disbelief as the eagle of the U.S. Marines and the den of the French soldiers turned into rubble. With 297 soldiers killed, the foreign project in Lebanon came to a dismal end. The blood of the martyrs revealed the features of a new country with a broader cause, one that honors resistance fighters as well as the aspirations of its own people.

Resistance to the Zionist enemy was to follow, with heroic acts that caused panic in the hearts of Zionist soldiers and foiled their designs. Resistance will remain our fundamental enterprise as long as there is one Zionist occupation soldier left in our land.

PFLP-GC's Jibril in Hospital for 'Medical Checks'

NC2610114593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Sources in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] have stated that Ahmad Jibril, the Front's secretary general, has been admitted to the American University of Beirut [AUB] Hospital in the Lebanese capital for routine medical checks. The sources did not give further details.

Clashes With Israeli-SLA Targets Reported

NC2310083493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Resistance fighters clashed with Zionist occupation forces and agents in the Shwayya area yesterday. They also attacked a hostile position in the al-Tuhrah-al-Dabshah region. Two fighters were martyred in the confrontation and 11 enemy personnel were killed or injured in the latter operation.

A resistance group yesterday succeeded in penetrating the contact lines in the Shwayya area. When the group arrived at the Shwayya- al-Birah road, it encountered a joint Zionist-South Lebanese Army [SLA] ambush, precipitating a fierce clash in which rockets and machine guns were used. Hostile artillery interceded, bombarding the periphery of the area up to the al-Wastani hills, which was hit by 12 155-mm shells. The confrontation continued until afternoon, after which a Zionist-SLA force of about 100 men cut the Hasbayya- Shab'a road. They also surrounded the al-'Urqub area and combed the adjacent areas amid intensive activity by Zionist helicopters. Joint Israeli-SLA patrols were also active along the contact line in the eastern sector.

Resistance men detonated an explosive device as a Zionist patrol passed on the al-Tuhrah-al-Dabshah road in the al-Nabatiyah area yesterday afternoon. According to security reports, 11 patrol members were killed or injured in the blast.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces bombarded the eastern hills of Kafr Rumman and the 'Ali al-Tahir woods with 82-mm mortar and heavy machine gun fire. Hostile vehicular movements were spotted between al-Tuhrah and al-Dabshah. The vicinity of upper al-Nabatiyah was shelled and raked.

Israeli gunboats continue to blockade ports of south Lebanon, preventing fishing off the Lebanese coast. Reports from Tyre said that none of the 200 fishing boat owners has gone fishing for more than a week, threatening a the livelihoods of the fishermen and their families.

'Agent Militia' in Bra'shit Attacked

NC2510091493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Resistance fighters this morning attacked the Bra'shit position of the agent militia with automatic weapons and rockets. There were no casualties. The Israeli occupation artillery retaliated by shelling the villages facing Bra'shit.

SLA, Israelis Rake Bra'shit

NC2510094193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army stationed on Bra'shit hill raked the vicinity of the township of Bra'shit and the adjacent valleys. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes flew over the area. Israeli aircraft also flew over Tyre and the sea at low altitude.

24-25 Operations Detailed

NC2610074693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] An Islamic Resistance group attacked the Sujud position inside in the occupied border strip with machine-gun fire and rockets yesterday afternoon. The operation left one vehicle burning and killed or wounded several of the enemy's agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA]. Ambulances were seen evacuating the casualties to the hospitals.

Security reports received in Marj 'Uyun yesterday indicated that the enemy army suffered 12 to 15 casualties in the battle against the Islamic Resistance the day before yesterday, not three casualties as the enemy claimed at the time.

An Islamic Resistance statement denied that two mujahidin were martyred in that operation and said that it lost only one martyr, brother struggler Hasan Jaghbir.

Navy Carries Out Live-Fire Tactical Exercise

JN2510185093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, 25 Oct (SANA)—At the direction of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a formation of our Navy has carried out a tactical exercise with live ammunition.

Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army; and several senior officers of the General Command of the Army and Armed Forces attended the executive stage of the exercise.

It was also attended by the commander of the Lebanese Naval Forces and some senior officers of the Lebanese Army.

The exercise began by moving participating naval elements to repulse and destroy the presumed enemy at sea. They fired their missiles and hit the specified targets successfully. The units taking part in the exercise were able to achieve all their training goals by carrying out the planned missions in an atmosphere very similar to that of a real battle.

At the end of the exercise, Lt. Gen. Mustafa Talas praised the commanders and fighters of the participating units and gave his detectives for future training, stressing the need to maintain combat alertness and continue training so that Hafiz al-Asad's Syria can continue to be a strong shield protecting the Arab land and rights.

He also said that our armed forces will remain loyal to their pan-Arab principles and that they are fully ready to defend the Arab nation's causes and achieve its goals of unity, freedom, and socialism.

Al-Asad Holds Talks With Lebanese Speaker Birri

JN2410214393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, at 1315 today. Talks centered on situation in the region, the peace process, and cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

Importance of Israeli 'Total Withdrawal' Viewed

JN2210151693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: During his current tour of the Middle East to save the peace process from the difficult crisis Israel has created as a result of its intransigent position and its continued rejection of a just and comprehensive peace, U.S. peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross said that his country is committed to achieving progress on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track in order to reach a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The U.S. coordinator's eagerness to link progress on the Syrian track with comprehensive settlement shows the importance of the Syrian track to the peace process and its objectives, Syria's sound and serious position, and the purpose of launching of peace process.

Ever since the peace process began, and over its 11 rounds of talks, Syria has adopted a clear-cut position toward the peace process. It insisted on the idea that the peace process should lead to a comprehensive and just peace in light of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace and to a comprehensive settlement on all fronts of the conflict as the only way to peace.

By stressing the importance of a comprehensive and just peace, Syria means that any other solution will not serve peace; will paralyze the whole peace process because of the absence of just and comprehensive rules, an Israeli commitment to a total withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights; and will conflict with the bases of the Madrid formula and the rules of international legitimacy and its resolutions pertaining to the conflict and the principle of land for peace.

Despite all this clarity in the Syrian position since the beginning of the peace process, Israel has taken a different position, tampered with the peace process and its aim, used every way to distort the international concept of peace, and avoided the Madrid formula in order to work out compromises, unilateral settlements, or suspect deals, and justified its refusal to carry out a total withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, despite the fact that such a withdrawal will constitute a major basis for any real peace in the region. Before the visit to the region by the U.S. envoy, Yitzhaq Rabin stressed Israel's refusal to return to the pre-5 June 1967 borders and talked about problems on the Syrian track.

These problems, which Rabin declined to define, are due, first and last, to his rejection of comprehensive and just peace. If Rabin had been serious in his position and refrained from maneuvering, deception, and bargaining on Arab rights, these problems would not exist and real peace would have made its way forcefully to the region. The current U.S. efforts are now facing Israeli obstacles just as international efforts faced them throughout the stages of the peace process. Therefore, if it wants to end the current impasse, the United States should remove these obstacles by getting Israel to abandon its intransigent policy, solve the problems it has created on the Syrian track, and take a serious position toward peace by clearly and publicly accepting a just peace, a comprehensive solution, and positions leading to them, by carrying out a total withdrawal from all the occupied territories, and by completely recognizing the Palestinian people's rights.

Israel Blamed for Ross' 'Empty-Handed Return'

JN2310174393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel seems to be satisfied now that U.S. envoy Dennis Ross has returned to Washington empty-handed thanks to Israeli stands that have resisted U.S. efforts to push the peace process forward on all tracks. This Israeli satisfaction comes from the fact that the U.S. envoy did not achieve any results on this tour, which could prompt U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to cancel his anticipated visit to the region.

In other words, Israel blocked the road for the continuation of U.S. efforts to activate the other tracks in the peace process. It did so through its intransigent stands, which aim at departing from the Madrid formula and creating a new formula that suits separate solutions like the one it inaugurated through the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Ross's empty-handed return, which was confirmed by U.S. circles, means that Israel did not succeed in convincing its closest ally of its viewpoint on refraining from continuing the peace process on the other tracks pending developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track, which is a priority in its calculations. It is natural that this Israeli stand does not convince anyone because it is not based on logic.

President al-Asad refuted the logic of this stand when he reaffirmed that only during wars can one talk about opening no more than one front at the same time. However, nothing prevents progress on more than one front at the same time in order to achieve peace so long as there is a serious desire to achieve such a peace. It has become clear that, in all its current moves in the name of peace, Israel does not proceed from a true desire to achieve real peace. Rather, it is trying to prepare the situation in the region for a postwar stage according to Israeli interests. This is what Israel means when it talks about a desire to achieve peace.

During the Cold War, Israel represented a forward post for the West in confronting the East and held an almost-complete empowerment in the region on the political, military, and security levels because of its role as an extension of the Western strategy in this confrontation with the communist bloc. It used this empowerment in order to threaten the security of the Arab states and to carry out aggression and expansion on Arab land. Israel wants to maintain its position in the post-Cold War stage through arrangements that grant it more than the role of a partner in the Western strategy, or more specifically, the U.S. strategy.

Israel is no longer satisfied with its role within the framework of this strategy at the current stage. Indeed, it wants an empowerment from the international community to have the upper hand in everything that concerns security, economic, and political arrangements in the region. This, in fact, explains all the Israeli moves aimed at entrenching the Israeli peace formula as demonstrated in the separate Gaza-Jericho agreement, which is based on shirking any international restraints or resolutions of international legitimacy and only gearing the moves toward such a peace in a way that serves Israeli interests and calculations.

It is clear that Israel's peace formula, according to pure Israeli calculations, means neutralizing, excluding, or even canceling, if possible, any role being played by an international party to achieve peace, even if this party is the U.S. ally itself. This is especially so since Israel wants to utilize all the arrangements being made in the name of peace in order to have a free hand in the region on the political, economic, and security levels through a complete empowerment from the international community. We can understand the West's justifications during the Cold War for the size of the role it gave to Israel within its world strategy. However, we cannot understand how the West, and the United States in particular, can give in to turning Israel, after the end of this confrontation, into a the only gate through which the world can enter the region and through which the region can open up to the world.

Syria will continue to resist everything Israel is doing to impose its peace on the region. It will not accept anything less than a just and comprehensive peace defined by resolutions of international legitimacy. However, the question is: Will the United States and the West collaborate against their own interests and against the interest of peace in the region for the sake of Israeli interests alone? Is this the concept of the desired just and comprehensive peace in the region? Did international legitimacy lose any value in Israel's view so as to become dwarfed to a point that is purely in line with Israel's objectives? These questions are posed to the West, in general, and the United States, in particular, as they express on every occasion their great concern about seeing peace prevail in this region—a region that has been afflicted enough by the tragedies of wars have been launched by Israeli enmity, expansionism, and hegemony.

Promotion of Peace 'On All Tracks' Urged

JN2410163393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Having blocked all ways to the Washington bilateral talks on Middle East peace, it is now natural for Israel to try to close the door completely since it has achieved what it wanted through the secret Oslo agreement.

Since the very beginning, and throughout the two years of bilateral talks, it has been clear that Israel resented everything linked to a comprehensive solution. Israel also tried to erase the word comprehensive from the dictionary of negotiations. Moreover, it fabricated alternative phrases and formulas, such as an agreement standing on its own feet, and other phrases. Recently, Israel had an opportunity to crystallize the idea behind this agreement, which stood on its own feet in Oslo, and which practically reversed the concept of peace.

The Oslo agreement was a separate deal designed to prevent a comprehensive solution. Everyone is aware that without a comprehensive solution, the situation in the region will not be consolidated or stabilized. After everyone who is concerned about peace in the region realized that there is no alternative to a comprehensive solution, it was recently emphasized that the Washington peace talks should be promoted on all tracks.

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross sought this objective during his recent tour, from which he returned empty-handed as a result of the Israeli position. This objective was also expressed in British Secretary of State Douglas Hurd's statements in Damascus yesterday. However, only Israel is still opposed to both a comprehensive solution and public negotiations; it prefers secrecy and separate deals. Israel has thus flagrantly and clearly expressed its desire to abandon the Madrid formula, both as a framework and a content, and called for secret bilateral talks.

Israel justifies this call by saying that two years of negotiations in Washington did not make any worthwhile achievement, whereas a few months of secret talks in Oslo resulted in an agreement. According to the Israeli logic, secrecy is the most successful way if negotiations are to yield fruit. This logic, however, ignores the fact that the Washington negotiations did not succeed because Israel does not want to give an opportunity for these negotiations to move forward, and also because Israel did not find in them the wide room for maneuvers designed to achieve partial solutions. Such room can be provided in secret talks.

By calling for secret talks, Israel first wants, as we said, to abandon the Madrid formula. Second, this secrecy would open the door wide for Israel's maneuvers and attempts designed to influence this or that Arab party by leaking fabricated information meant to sign separate deals in the name of peace. Except for the name, such deals bear no characteristic of peace. This confirms that Israel's call for secret talks does not seek to speed up a peaceful achievement, as it claims, but to prevent the achievement of a comprehensive peace.

Israel only fools itself by having the delusion that it can deceive the world about its peace endeavors. Since the Oslo agreement was signed, Israel has been proving daily that this was the target it was seeking in the name of peace endeavors. Israel has attained this target now and is not ready to go further; so others have to await what Israel will later decide.

However, decisionmaking on regional peace cannot remain a hostage to Israeli calculations, whims, and schemes. International efforts should be pooled to return Israel to a path that would lead to the desired real, just, and comprehensive peace, as defined in the Madrid formula.

Press Stresses Commitment to 'Madrid Formula'

JN2410102193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary published today under the headline "Israel Alone is Obstructing Efforts To Achieve Just and Comprehensive Peace," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Persistent efforts are being made in various directions to activate and advance the stalemated peace process. In this regard, all those who have visited Syria or held talks with Syrian officials on the peace process have affirmed that Damascus is extremely concerned about the success of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH notes that the statements made by Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, at his news conference refute all Israeli claims and allegations in this regard. Hurd said that he had obtained a clear and perfect idea of Syria's position on and commitment to the peace process, as well as Syria's attitude toward this process, which is based on the principle of complete withdrawal in exchange for full peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: After his talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the British secretary of state came to the conclusion that Syria is extremely serious about just and comprehensive peace in the region. The entire problem now lies with Israel. This is because when Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process, was in occupied Palestine, several Israeli officials, led by Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, said that they would not focus on the Syrian track in the future.

AL-BA'TH believes that this shows the Israeli rejection of work on all tracks to achieve just and comprehensive peace, although this has continued to be underscored by the U.S. Administration. It is noteworthy that President Bill Clinton has said that just and comprehensive peace will not be achieved in the region unless progress is made on the Syrian track. The paper adds that Israel, which pursues a policy based on dealing with the Arab parties one at a time, is attempting to use the Gaza-Jericho accord to give the impression that peace has been achieved in the region, and that the dispute with Syria and Lebanon is merely a border dispute.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH affirms that Syria will continue to cooperate with efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. The paper notes that whoever thinks that Syria could accept anything short of this is gravely mistaken.

In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the second anniversary of the inauguration of the Madrid Middle East peace conference, which was described at the time as the greatest international event since World War II. Many people characterized this event as a unique historic opportunity for achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region, which should not be wasted.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Two years after the convocation of the conference, and after 11 rounds of bilateral talks in Washington, it seems that Israel continues to work to kill all the hopes created by this conference. Israel has continued to create obstacles and difficulties, and to entrench

itself in intransigent and impossible stands to demolish the Madrid formula and replace it with other formulas that would enable it to deal with the Arab sides one at a time so that it can impose the solution it desires.

The paper goes on to say: Despite the fact that two years have passed since the inauguration of the Madrid conference, Israel's conduct and its provocative and intransigent positions have remained unchanged. Israeli rulers have also continued to reject the requirements of peace, which are enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions and international law. From the outset, the peace process ran into the Shamir government's position, which was based on procrastination, prevaricaiton, and refusal to address issues pertaining to complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Nowadays, the peace talks have run into new obstacles laid by the Rabin government, which is attempting, through efforts to ensure the endorsement of its flawed concepts and conceptions regarding the nature of the regional settlement, to [sentence incomplete as heard].

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel has thus far continued to procrastinate, prevaricate, place obstacles in the way of peace, and sidestep the components and requirements of just and comprehensive peace. Regardless of the honest and sincere responsiveness to the peace efforts demonstrated by the Arabs, Israel has remained adamant about its intransigent and provocative stands. Moreover, it has failed to show any willingness to commit itself to withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. All this shows the lack of desire for peace on Israel's part, as well as its determination to hold on to occupied Arab territories, not to mention its disregard for the will of the international community.

Under the headline "The Components of Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Syria, which is committed to a just and comprehensive solution grounded in international resolutions, has affirmed that it will not depart from the Madrid formula, and that it has nothing to say secretly. This is because its positions are clear and can be articulated in public at the bilateral negotiating table in Washington.

The paper adds: The outcome of peace efforts is spelled out in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which the two sides accepted as the terms of reference for the Madrid conference and the peace process in general. Any departure from these resolutions and their requirements is an attempt to circumvent just and viable peace, which alone can achieve stability in the region.

TISHRIN notes Shim'on Peres' statement that Syria is adopting a rigid position toward peace, that it has refused to open additional channels for dialogue with Israel, that it is opposed to secret contacts, and that it wants a meaningless peace.

The paper says: These statements by Peres, just like statements by other Israeli officials, are designed to strike at the peace process represented by the Madrid formula. Israel wants secret contacts to evade the requirements of peace spelled out in the Madrid formula, which is grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It wants to fragment and weaken the Arab position so that it may impose its conditions and achieve its own version of peace.

Afghanistan

IUP Criticizes Constitutional Commission

NC2510073193 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Oct 93 p 5

["Text" of a statement issued by the Islamic Unity Party [IUP] of Afghanistan; place, date not given]

[Text] The monopolistic ruling faction has taken another sly, hasty step by forming the contrived Constitutional Commission on Afghan President Rabbani's orders. It has worsened and upset the country's political atmosphere on its slow path toward security, tranquility, and stability and has caused the concern of the jehadi forces and the Muslim masses.

As for the objective or objectives of the monopolistic faction behind this step, this requires careful study and analysis. It is a suspicious attempt, which we reject and declare unacceptable because:

1. The draft constitution contradicts the Jalalabad Accord on the basis of which a supreme supervisory council of leaders and authorized representatives of the parties should be formed. The constitutional committee should be formed with the council's consent and under its supervision, with no one else—not even the president or the prime minister—having the authority or right.

2. This attempt is a unilateral decision made without consulting the other parties and individuals, who must participate in and approve significant decisions for the country. We should know that the era of colonialism and dictatorship cannot return to Afghanistan and the country cannot be run by unilateral decisions.

3. The council's composition and the absence of its members' intellectual and scientific competence form another element that weakens this plan, since the constitution is not a simple regulation that can be compiled by several experienced people. It is the highest and most delicate legal phenomenon linked with the civilization, culture, and ideology of a society and with the objectives, aspirations, and mutual relations between the government and the nation. It is a law that should be compiled by able and competent 'ulema, scholars, lawyers, and politicians, who should get together, discuss it carefully, and take time to compile it. But such people are absent from the commission assigned by Rabbani and it has not been given enough time.

4. The plan does not represent women—the most oppressed, most deprived strata of society—and does not consider their rights.

5. Since the Constitution is linked with society's fate, the people should designate the representatives who will act on their behalf and compile principles and norms. And while the duty of delegating representatives to act for the people is an accepted and definite religious, legal, and political principle, Rabbani has not paid the least attention to it.

6. In various interviews and statements, most parties and political and military processes in the country have rejected the principle of this commission and the decisions adopted by it. Naturally, the decisions adopted by a minority—even though this minority is in power—have no political or legal validity. Even if this attempt is viewed as a government decision, today's government is a coalition of all the parties, so, when the majority disagrees, no decision adopted by the minority can have any value.

7. Blind sectarian fanaticism and the reactionary and retrogressive move seen in this law form another reason for its rejection. But if, after 15 years of jihad and revolution, we can't compile a constitution that is more progressive than the laws of the past and closer to Islamic thought and to the logic of justice and freedom, then we should see Afghanistan go back a century or two to religious fanaticism. We should know that the people of Afghanistan expect more from us than this and are not prepared to tolerate such moves.

8. The plan to draft the constitution is considered an element that rekindles tension in the country. At a time when we need a healthy atmosphere and mutual trust, this attempt to create tension is another reason the plan is not acceptable by the people of Afghanistan.

By carefully considering these reasons, we believe Rabbani's step lacks every ounce of legal, political, or religious value or validity; its only outcome will be to weaken the peace process and act as a divisive element.

The IUP has repeatedly stated its stances through interviews and statements. But it again deems it necessary to briefly list its demands:

1. Under the circumstances, we condemn every tension-creating and divisive act and consider any act that is aimed in this direction to be a kind of treason, plotting, and authoritativeness.

2. We emphasize the need to implement the Jalalabad Accord and strongly condemn any attempt to violate its commitments.

3. A gathering of the people's true representatives, whose intellectual and scientific competence have been established, will shape the country's future constitution, which will be approved by a popular referendum.

4. The only way to legalize issues, create stability, and observe justice is through free and just elections.

5. Ensuring the rights of the deprived nationalities and implementing social justice are among our other requests, which we will not ignore.

6. The Shiite religion has over 7 million followers in Afghanistan and should be listed in the constitution next to the Hanifite school of religion. The Shiites of Afghanistan cannot be seen as a minority and be deprived of their rights on the basis of this imaginary argument.

7. The rights of Afghan women should be ensured in line with the teachings of Islam, within the framework of

national and historic considerations, and according to the women's demands and conditions.

8. While confirming the decisive and wise stance of the IUP Secretary General Ostad Mazari, we call on all the people, especially the dear refugees, to closely follow the incidents, elements, and objectives behind the scenes of political moves and to defend their rights and fate by displaying a suitable approach and by adopting a decisive stance.

9. Again, we call on Rabbani to adopt a realistic approach, to not let Afghanistan live in unrest and chaos, and to know that by seeking confusion and chaos, he can never preserve his political strength or credibility.

India

Further Details Reported as Shrine Siege Continues

Home Minister Appeals for Evacuation

BK2210162393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Standing Committee of the National Integration Council, which met in New Delhi today, has deplored attempts by the militants to desecrate the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar and to tamper with the holy relic. The members, while commending the restraint with which the Center and the state governments have handled the situation, urged that the main objective should be the protection of the shrine and the relic.

Briefing newspersons in New Delhi tonight, an official spokesman said the government will maintain regular contacts with the political parties on the Srinagar situation.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, presided over the meeting. In his opening remarks, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, appealed to all sections of people to exert their full moral weight and strength to see that the unholy occupation of the shrine in Srinagar is vacated immediately without any harm or damage. He said everyone must maintain calm and the fullest restraint. Mr. Chavan regretted that a sustained effort is being made by the militants to create widespread disorder and subversion and threaten the secular fabric of the country.

Central ministers in charge of Human Resource Development and Railways, chief ministers of Kerala, Maharashtra, Haryana, Orissa and the governor of Uttar Pradesh participated in the deliberations. Leaders of political parties who attended the meeting were S.R. Bommai—Janata Dal, Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee—Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], former Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar and former Minister Mr. Swaran Singh. Special invitees at the meeting were Dr. Karan Singh and professor Bhim Singh of Panthers Party.

'Militants' Promised 'Full Protection'

BK2510125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, efforts are on to persuade the armed militants inside the Hazratbal shrine to surrender. Appeals through loudspeakers are being made every half an hour asking them to surrender or at least to permit women, children, and the sick to come out. The militants have been assured full protection and even rehabilitation.

The director general of Jammu and Kashmir police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, told newsmen that a few militants hiding inside the shrine took some rations and other things from the guard room building and set it on fire around 0400 this morning. Meanwhile, day curfew has been lifted in Kishtwar town of Doda district from today. It was relaxed for five hours today in five of the six police station areas in Srinagar.

Kashmiris Issue 24-Hour Ultimatum

BK2510143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, the Indian army siege of dargah [shrine] Hazratbal entered its 10th day today with no end to the standoff in sight. Curfew remained imposed today in the southern town of Bijbiara. Kashmiri people defied curfew restrictions and took out protest rallies against the siege of dargah Hazratbal. Reports say several people were wounded in Baramula, Sopor, and Kupwara when police resorted to violence to disperse the protesters. The teachers and students of Kashmir University have gone on a hunger strike to show their solidarity with the besieged people of dargah Hazratbal.

Religious leaders of the held valley have warned the Indian Government that if the siege is not lifted within 24 hours and inmates allowed free passage, the protesting population would defy curfew and enter the dargah irrespective of consequences. They say the entire responsibility would lie with the Indian Government which is not at all sincere in its mediation effort. Troops have cut off water and electricity to the dargah and sealed it with barbed wire. Sandbag bunkers have been built at strategic locations, while armored personnel carriers guard the entrance to the dargah. More than 100 people, including women and children, are still barricaded in the dargah.

Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir and the sacrilege of dargah Hazratbal by Indian troops have aroused bitter criticism in the Indian press. A renowned Indian journalist, Mr. Janardan Thakur, in an article in the OBSERVER OF BUSINESS AND POLITICS, writes: Whether you put it to the failure of the Indian diplomacy or the superiority of the Pakistani diplomats, the fact remains that occupied Kashmir is suddenly like a besieged valley; and what made the crisis worse is that the Indian Government seems totally clueless on Kashmir. None of its so-called initiatives had even taken off the ground. Amazing is the indian government's habit of letting crises simmer until things go completely out of hand. The Indian

journalist says now with the valley almost slipping out of our grasp, there is a sense of panic in high places in India.

In Rawalpindi, leaders representing different walks of life staged a token hunger strike in protest against the desecration and siege of dargah Hazratbal by Indian troops. They also took out a procession. They were carrying placards and banners, denouncing human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and the continued siege of dargah Hazratbal. They handed over a memorandum to UN officials at the UN Observer Mission.

Talks Held With Separatists

BK2510161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, another round of negotiations were held this afternoon between the state administration and the militants holed up inside the Hazratbal shrine. The negotiations continued till evening, but the details are not available. Appeals are being made through loudspeakers asking the militants to surrender. The authorities have requested for the release of women, children, and the sick.

A medical team was rushed into the shrine this evening as some persons were ill. They were given immediate treatment.

The commissioner of Kashmir division, Mr. Habibullah, the chief negotiator; expressed the hope of finding a peaceful solution to the stalemate.

The additional chief secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir government, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, said that there are no differences between the security forces and the administration over handling the situation. The army authorities in a press statement issued this evening in Srinagar have also denied the report and said there is perfect understanding between the Army and the state government.

The situation in other parts of Srinagar remained by and large peaceful. The curfew was relaxed in all the six police station areas for varying periods. It has been lifted in Bijbiara and Anantnag towns. The day curfew has been lifted in the Kishtwar town of Doda district also.

Eminent human rights activists have offered their mediation on humanitarian grounds to solve the crisis in Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, they expressed the fear that the life of civilians holed up along with the militants inside the Hazratbal shrine are in danger. The human rights activists include Mr. Rajendra Sachchar, Mr. Kuldip Nayyar, Mr. G.M. Tarkunde, Professor Rajni Kothari, and Mr. K.G. Kannabiran.

The All India Minorities Front has criticized the statement of the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, on the Hazratbal shrine incidents. At its meeting in New Delhi today, the front commended the government's strategy to force the surrender of the militants.

Medical Aid Given to Shrine Occupants

BK2610033293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, authorities have permitted medical aid for the persons held captive by the militants in the Hazratbal shrine. A medical team examined about a dozen ailing persons and provided them medicines yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, the medical aid was provided on humanitarian grounds.

Our Srinagar correspondent reports that state authorities permitted supply of food on Sunday [24 October] last and both these gestures are considered important steps in the process of negotiations between the state administration and the militants holed up inside the shrine for the last 11 days.

Our correspondent reports that there were two rounds of negotiations between the militants and the chief negotiator, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, yesterday afternoon. Another round of negotiations is expected today.

Precautionary curfew continues only in five of the 22 police station areas in the city. No major incident was reported yesterday.

Victims of Kashmir Shooting To Receive Relief

BK2410104293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced an ex gratia relief of one lakh rupees to the next of kin of each of the 37 persons killed in Friday's [22 October] firing at Bijbiara in Anantnag District. Seventy-two injured persons will get the relief depending on the nature and extent of their injuries. The director general of the BSF [Border Security Force], Mr. Prakash Singh, arrived in Srinagar yesterday and reviewed the situation in Bijbiara and other parts of Kashmir valley with senior officers of the BSF and other security forces. The curfew has been lifted in Bijbiara and Anantnag towns with improvement in the situation.

Four Killed in Andhra Pradesh Explosion

BK2510031093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, four persons were killed when an explosive device went off in a house at (Madala Cheruvu) village in Anantapur District yesterday. The district police chief told All India Radio Vijaywada correspondent this morning the device exploded when a television was switched on. The killed include the wife of a former MLA [member of legislative assembly], late M. Narayana Reddy, who was gunned down by Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] sometime back. The house collapsed under the impact of the explosion.

Minister Details Plans To Expand TV Network

BK2510104293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, has said that the INSAT-2C [satellite] scheduled for launching in 1995 will be used only for broadcasting and communications. He said the country has taken full advantage of the facilities offered by the INSAT-2B which was declared operational earlier this year. Describing it as a tremendous achievement, he said it has enabled Doordarshan [Indian television] to launch five new channels, besides regional services. He said INSAT-2C will provide more channels, enabling Doordarshan to increase its coverage area, and people in West Asia, Sri Lanka, and Burma will be able to watch Doordarshan programs. Mr. K.P. Singh Deo was inaugurating an exhibition on the Broadcasting Cable and Satellite India-93 in New Delhi today. The secretary of I & B [Information and Broadcasting Ministry], Mr. R.K. Bhargava, senior officers of the ministry and its media units were also present at the inaugural ceremony. Throwing light on the evolution of radio and television broadcasting networks, the minister said the range of choice of broadcasting services has grown dramatically. Speaking about the resource crunch, the minister urged the experts to make broadcasting technologies consumer-friendly and financially viable. The highlight of the exhibition is a three-day conference on trends in broadcasting and emerging technologies, providing an opportunity for exchange of information.

Spokesman Denies Reference to U.S. During Speech

BK2510160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The External Affairs Ministry has denied that the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, had made any reference to the United States in his speech yesterday at the raising day celebrations of the Indo-Tibetan border police in New Delhi. Responding to queries by newsmen on some press reports in this regard, the official spokesman of the ministry said that the home minister had been quoted out of context.

Cyprus Statement On Multilateral Trade Hailed

BK2410103893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Commentary by B.I. Saini]

[Text] The Commonwealth initiative to persuade the world community to bring the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations to a speedy and successful conclusion marks a major breakthrough at the Cyprus summit. The trade talks have been going on for seven years with differences both between developing and developed countries and among the industrialized nations themselves blocking an agreement. Failure to reach an accord has cost the world economy heavily. The losers have been both the developed countries and the Third World. In the absence of an agreement, protectionism has raised its head in some of the major industrialized nations which are otherwise votaries of free enterprize. This in turn has hit the exports of the developing countries, increasing their debt burden and reducing their capacity to buy manufactured goods from the industrialized nations. Because of this, the specter of recession looms large before the United States and other Western countries.

The decision of the Commonwealth heads of government to send a ministerial mission to key world capitals for persuading the countries concerned to negotiate positively to reach a final agreement at the Uruguay round comes not in a day too soon. The final deadline of reaching an agreement by the 15th of December is fast approaching. Failure or delay in working out an agreement will be disastrous for the world economy. It is bound to lead to increased protectionism which will hit the economies of both the developed and the developing countries. It will also mean missing the opportunity to provide a much needed stimulus to the world economy. An agreement will increase world trade by $200 billion a year. Out of this, developing countries share may be of the order of $50 billion.

The Limassol statement on the Uruguay round though concluded in general terms meets the concerns of developing countries like India. It appeals to the principal trading nations to take full account of the needs and concerns of developing countries especially the least developed. It also lays down that the Uruguay round package must cover all aspects of the negotiations including trade rules and market access in industrial goods like textiles and other items which developing countries export—agriculture and trade in- services. The reference to textiles is of special interest to India as it is one of her major export items. The Commonwealth initiative, if it succeeds, will be major achievement of the Cyprus summit.

Iran

Deputy Foreign Minister on Visit to Iraq

LD2210200293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs, who headed a political delegation to Iraq and held several rounds of talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, as well as his counterpart, returned to Tehran last night.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, Zarif pointed out that the topic of the negotiations was the full implementation of [UN] resolution 598 and said: Other obstacles in the way of normalization of relations between the two countries were also discussed. Please pay attention to the interview:

[Begin Zarif recording] Various issues and problems in relations between the two countries, the problems of POWs, men missing in action, and other human issues left over from the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war were discussed in the negotiations.

To solve these problems, the Islamic Republic has put forward a proposal and we think that the Iraqi side should, in all honesty and goodwill, act toward solving this human issue. As far as we are concerned, we are completely ready to move forward in this area. The issues concern those missing in action, registered POWs who have not yet returned, and the unregistered POWs—and we think there is a significant number of them in Iraq. We put forward a comprehensive proposal on these issues, and the Iraqi side is to study our proposals and will reply when the Iraqi officials visit Tehran, God willing.

Discussions were held regarding the future of relations between the two countries, outstanding issues and matters regarding the pilgrimage to the holy sites of the two countries, and God willing, discussions will continue in future trips. [end recording]

Iraqi Official To Visit Iran

LD2610095393 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif Tuesday was quoted as saying that his Iraqi counterpart Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal will visit Iran by mid-November. Zarif, back from his week-long visit to Iraq at al-Faysal's invitation, in an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' pointed out that Iran would finalize the time-table for the exchange of visits between the two countries' foreign ministers following this trip.

He told the paper that his visit to Baghdad was a start point to renew the proccess of improving mutual ties as well as the settlement of remaining problems within the framework of v...ious U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq's imposed war against Iran and its attack on Kuwait.

"Iran wants friendly, brotherly relations with all its neighbours and we want this region free from any kind of tension," Zarif said.

While in Iraq, Zarif also met with the Iraqi foreign minister, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, and a number of other ranking officials.

MKO Allegedly Nominates Future President

LD2410111793 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—The Baghdad-based terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), Friday announced alleged nomination of Maryam Qajar Azodanlou, known as Maryam Rajavi, as the future president of Iran.

Maryam, wife of the MKO ringleader Mas'ud Rajavi, was previously wife of Mehdi Abrishamchi, an MKO ideologue, who married Mas'ud upon an organizational decision.

The MKO announcement on Maryam's alleged nomination as Iran's future president was released at a time when a number of MKO agents recently disclosed that the grouplet was getting prepared for an operation against border villages of Iran.

However, the MKO rejected the report but the ringleader Rajavi in a televised program recently broadcast from Iraq, promised that his agents would be in Tehran soon.

A joint network of MKO terrorists and drug smugglers has been recently smashed which followed disclosure of plots being hatched by the network for distribution of narcotic drugs and launching of new terrorist operations, including planting bombs.

The foreign-backed MKO grouplet, in addition to being involved in acts of espionage for the aliens, has repeatedly carried out terrorist activities in Iranian border areas.

It should be noted that president is being elected in Iran through general elections and by direct votes of the people.

Khamene'i Urges 'Violent Struggle' on Peace Pact

PM2610141393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p3

[Unattributed report: "After Weeks of Hesitation and Contradiction Iran Decides To Play a Major Role Against the PLO-Israel Agreement"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed sources in Tehran ysterday confirmed that, after weeks of hesitation and conflicting signals, Iran has decided to play a major role against the peace agreements between the PLO and Israel.

According to these sources, Iran's supreme guide 'Ali Khamene'i has decided to personally take over responsibility for the issue of Arab-Israeli relations. Khamene'i confirmed that decision when he received Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Organization, in Tehran. Khamene'i told al-Shaqaqi that it is necessary to initiate a violent struggle to torpedo these agreements. He added that Iran is determined "to take its place on the confrontation line" alongside the forces opposed to the agreements.

Initially, the Iranian Foreign Ministry and other government departments in Tehran tried to play down the importance of al-Shaqaqi's visit in an attempt to avoid portraying Iran as taking an extremist line against the peace agreements. The radio and television networks controlled by President Rafsanjani's wing even dropped items related to the agreements from their newscasts in a clear signal that Iran did not wish to be involved. Furthermore, Rafsanjani himself never condemned the agreements and just advised the Palestinians "not to fall into the trap." Tehran's papers, however, gave extensive coverage to a statement issued by Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late leader of the revolution, calling for "the escalation and intensification of the intifadah."

Rafsanjani's aides believe that al-Shaqaqi cannot be presented as an alternative to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They advocate an Iranian middle of the road position until

the situation becomes clearer so that if the Palestinians manage to form a new leadership opposed to the agreements, then aid would be offered to them.

Khamene'i, however, appears to be convinced that Iran could contribute to the emergence of a new Palestinian leadership through financial, diplomatic, and informational assistance to help bring about such an alternative leadership. Khamene'i's supporters believe that a hard-line front consisting of al-Jihad, Hamas, and Lebanon's Hizballah could torpedo the agreements.

On the orders of Khamene'i, many mullahs spoke in speeches to gatherings in Tehran and other towns about the peace agreements and called for "strong measures" by Iran to stop the process of "handing Palestine over to the Jews." The official media yesterday cited Hasan Rowhani, secretary general of the Iranian National Security Supreme Council, as saying that Iran "will spare no effort to foil the agreements." Rowhani, who is close to Rafsanjani, declared last month that Iran "has no intention of making any moves against the agreement concluded between the PLO and Israel nor to obstruct the peace process."

Sources in Tehran say that Khamene'i will order Rafsanjani, after his return from his current tour of Central Asia and Azerbaijan, to declare his approval of the new more hard-line policy on the Palestinian question.

Paper Urges More Openness by Foreign Ministry

NC2410214193 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Once Again Silence and Defensiveness"]

[Text] The unheralded meeting between Dr. Velayati and 'Amr Musa, the Egyptian foreign minister, on the sidelines of the recent UN General Assembly session has prompted different interpretations in the Arabic press. This is while the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman did not even report the event to the domestic media; he only mentioned it when he denied allegations that Cairo had imposed conditions on improving relations with Iran regarding the agreements reached during the meeting between the two countries.

The AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper, citing "informed sources," stated: The region will witness certain changes in Iranian-Egyptian relations in the next few weeks.

The same newspaper has audaciously claimed that the Egyptians have presented four conditions for improving relations with Iran:

1. Severing Iran's covert relations with Egyptian principled [fundamentalist] groups.

2. Halting anti-Egyptian propaganda.

3. Terminating Iran's expansionist actions in the Persian Gulf.

4. Acknowledging the UAE's rights to the three (Iranian) islands in the Persian Gulf while displaying goodwill to resolve this dispute.

Citing Egyptian sources, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT stated that progress in political relations between the two countries will depend on the Iranian stance toward Cairo's proposals.

What has enhanced the ambiguity surrounding this meeting and has heightened speculation in political circles is why the Iranian side did not disseminate any report on the meeting, which, according to the existing information, took place on the insistence of the Egyptian side. This silence was maintained even though copious reports on the meetings of our foreign minister with his counterparts and other high-level international personalities on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session—which is a diplomatic tradition—were regularly reported.

Dr. Velayati must certainly have conveyed our decisive and principled stance regarding relations with Egypt, the recent developments in the Arab world, the humiliating Gaza-Jericho accord, and issues regarding the Persian Gulf to the Egyptian foreign minister, which have been reiterated by the great leader and other high-level officials of our country. The question that arises is: Despite the elaboration of our positions, which are a manifestation of the greatness and prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran, why was such a silence maintained that gave a field day to the brokers and the jackals? Why should we permit the Egyptian sources and their supporters to disseminate rumors on this meeting in such an audacious manner?

In order to adopt such a principled stance we have endured the pressure of the United States, Europe, and Japan, but we are not prepared to budge even slightly from it. So why did we permit the disgraceful Egyptian regime to spew venom against Iran from its sources, which are usually "ambiguous," even though the political meeting took place because of their entreaties and groveling?

Fortunately, the Iranian stance is quite clear regarding the self-sold Egyptian regime. The legitimacy of this stance was affirmed in the wake of the Gaza-Jericho accord for those who entertained doubts on this matter, and no one can be ambivalent regarding the fact that we do not have relations with Egypt. What is important is that by adopting a news policy shorn of ambiguity we can shatter the enemies' avaricious fangs and prevent them from reaping political capital from the situation.

'Amr Musa's enthusiasm for meeting the Iranian foreign minister, and Egypt's insistence on establishing relations with Iran is a lucid reason for us to mull over any meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister. And when such a meeting does take place for acceptable political reasons, we should disseminate a report on the meeting and an explanation of our stances to eliminate all doubts from our people and Muslims all over the world who are, on principle, sensitive to such issues.

Paper Views Pakistan Foreign Relations

NC2410221393 Tehran SALAM in Persian 12 Oct 93 pp 12, 4

[Unattributed political commentary: "Pakistan Toward Stability"]

[Excerpts] Following several months of political crisis in Pakistan, the outcome of the elections has been announced, and political stability and tranquillity are expected to return to that country. With the formation of a government and the election of a prime minister, political democracy in Pakistan will experience the era of its maturity.

A brief glance at Pakistan since its independence shows that the political power in that country has alternated between military and civilian governments, with the military coming to power through Army intervention and a coup and with the civilians coming to power through general elections. However, one special characteristic has always been the reason behind Pakistan's political dynamism, even during the military rule, and that is the "freedom of the press and of political parties." It is this special characteristic that has helped Pakistan avoid lifelong dictatorships similar to those in some Third World countries and especially in the Arab world. Even the military rule was not a dictatorship, but was coupled with "indulgence and compromise" toward the people and "limited freedom of the press and of political parties." [passage omitted]

Here, we should point out that the analyses and comments on the internal developments in Pakistan by some of the Iranian press have always regarded events there from a completely Iranian angle. In other words, they have not tried to assess Pakistan's internal developments by taking into consideration the criteria and values that rule Pakistani society. Unfortunately, this has prevented us from fully understanding or wrongly judging Pakistan's internal developments and from adopting a suitable stance regarding these developments.

For example, in Pakistan meetings between political leaders—irrespective of which party they belong to—with foreign diplomats are an ordinary matter and do not, in any way, mean spying or dependence. If you glance through Pakistani newspapers you can see that this is true. However, in our society's general culture, such meetings and contacts are assessed differently. And if we take the Iranian society's general culture as a yardstick to measure Pakistani politicians' actions, we will be making a mistake. Even Pakistan's ordinary people will not accept this type of assessment, let alone its political leaders and intellectuals.

Regarding the recent meetings between Benazir Bhutto and the American ambassador in Pakistan, it has been said that Bhutto's victory is what America wanted and has been implied that the people of Pakistan are toys in the hands of politicians used to fulfill American wishes in that country. But this is never the case. Basically speaking, irrespective of all their differences Pakistan's political and military leaders agree on one thing: "safeguarding the national interests" of their country. And on the basis of their own views and outlooks, they deem "meetings and discussions" with ambassadors and leaders of other countries to be necessary for "safeguarding the national interests" of their country. Never are such meetings and discussions considered spying and dependence. If we look at the Pakistani political leaders' meetings during the past two months, we can clearly see that most of these leaders were busy meeting with and talking to foreign ambassadors in Islamabad.

Another clear example is Pakistan's provisional Prime Minister Moin Qureshi. When he assumed his post, some newspapers referred to his long sojourn in America, to the fact that he holds an American passport, and that he worked as an expert for the World Bank for 25 years and stated that America's favorite man had come to power to establish a pro-American government. But first of all, Pakistan accepts dual nationality. Second, if a Pakistani spends a lifetime abroad he still remains a Pakistani and will strive to ensure his country's national interests. And third, Qureshi's two-month record showed how he strived for the management of the country, for economic reforms, and for holding healthy elections.

In short, in the comments and analyses appearing in Iran on Pakistan's internal developments, we should avoid the prevailing [the space for one word is empty] judgments in Iran that are based on the specific historic experiences of Iran, and we should try to assess the situation from a Pakistani angle, even if we may not favor the values and criteria that prevail in that country.

Of course, there is no doubt that America's nature is based on hegemonism and force and that America's efforts to infiltrate other countries, including Pakistan, are endless. But the approach that Iran takes toward America and the approach that Pakistan takes toward America are completely different; and this dates back to historic experiences and to the international conditions that each country has had to face. This is why we should avoid extending the meaning of our approach toward America to Pakistan's so that we can correctly assess incidents and developments. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, any government that comes to power in Pakistan will try to have the best relations with Iran on the same basis of "safeguarding its national interests." These relations are bound together with cultural and religious ties. Experience has shown that changes in government in Pakistan have not had a great impact on its foreign policy toward Iran. Iranian-Pakistani "traditional fraternity and friendship" have always been superior to governments. Therefore, we should avoid extremist stances and help this traditional fraternity and friendship to continue and, like the people of Pakistan, consider the recent developments in that country to be a good sign. We should congratulate the future prime minister of Pakistan and wish that by achieving political stability and tranquillity Pakistan will successfully tread its path toward progress and development.

Detainee Allowed To Meet German Consul

LD2510180893 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct 25, IRNA—German national Gerhard Alfred Bechmann, who was arrested on charges of having illegal links with the Iranian Army personnel, met with German consul in Tehran for 25 minutes Monday, a source at military prosecutor office announced.

The source said investigations are underway to complete the case, adding that according to current regulations if investigations are completed and there is no need to keep the accused in detention or, if the possibility of his collusion or escape is removed, he could appeal for commutation in his temporary detention.

In this case, the source added, the accused could be temporarily released on proper bail until the time of his trial, as the same procedure is being practiced for other accused.

He noted that a specific time could not be set for Bechmann's trial but said there was a possibility that in a near future the case would reach a specific stage that the accused could be released on proper bail while being prohibited to leave the country.

Bechmann was arrested for having illegal links with the Iranian Army personnel, assisting in the disclosure of military information and bribery here on 9 October.

British Efforts To Isolate Iran Ridiculed

NC2410134493 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Oct 93 p 2

[Hoseyn Qasemi commentary: "The Farce of the Fury of the British"]

[Excerpts] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd sent a letter to his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel expressing apprehension over the official visit by the minister of intelligence and security of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Germany.

In this letter, he deemed the action of the Bonn hierarchy in inviting a high-level intelligence and security official as contravening the pact of the December 1992 session of the 12 EC countries in Edinburgh. The object of the pact was to "oversee the freezing of the EC's relations with Tehran until the abrogation of the fatwah for killing Salman Rushdie," and it implied that this action contradicts European unity. It is not unlikely that, with such a protest, the British have surpassed all their other allies and colleagues in the EC, because London's following of U.S. policy has made it conspicuous as an instrument of U.S. influence in Europe (in other words, its Trojan horse.)

It is obvious that this is more accentuated when this role involves our country, which should be isolated according to the plan of "dual containment" propounded by the U.S. hierarchy and experts. However, the fact that the British describe the actions of the Germans as contrary to the spirit of European unity is utterly ridiculous, since they have left no stone unturned to undermine European unity and continue to do so. For years the British resisted joining the European monetary system, and when circumstances forced them to do so, it was not long before they abandoned it or divorced themselves from it! [passage omitted]

On the other hand, ever since the historical decree to kill Salman Rushdie was promulgated by the late imam (may God be pleased with him), the British have consistently asked their European cohorts not to get closer to Iran and to isolate it politically. Meanwhile, a number of their ministers and high-level officials have held meetings and talks with their Iranian counterparts. The visits by the British minister for humanitarian assistance and the director of the Middle East desk at the British Foreign Office are among the recent high-level exchanges between the two countries!

The British, who were aggravated at being labeled shopkeepers by Napoleon Bonaparte, should be even angrier today, for they do not even possess the goods they are offering for sale. At one time their policy of playing both sides at once and causing discord, which was popular among simpletons, now has no patrons due to the change in the tide.

No Embassy in Macedonia Planned 'Presently'

LD2510184893 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—An informed Foreign Ministry source here Monday said that Iran does not presently intend to open its embassy in Skopje, capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Macedonian press had earlier alleged that Iran was due to open its embassy there.

Macedonia is one of the six republics of the former Yugoslavia which declared independence in 1991. Greece's opposition to Macedonia's name has brought the country into extreme political isolation. The United Nation Security Council earlier this year formally recognized the republic as an independent state under the name of "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Meanwhile, Greece claims that Macedonians are of Greek origin and that no other country can make the same claim.

About 40 percent of Macedonia's population are Muslim from Albanian and Turk descent.

Iran previously had expanded relations with the republic when it was part of the former Yugoslavia.

Tajan Bridge to Turkmenistan Inaugurated

LD2310114693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] The Tajan bridge, on the border between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan, was inaugurated today. Our correspondent reports on this from the Mashhad Center.

[Unidentified correspondent, by telephone] For the purpose of reviving the silk route and facilitating the expansion of economic relations with the Republic of Turkmenistan, the Tajan border bridge was inaugurated this morning in the presence of the Turkmenistani vice president and our country's minister of roads and transport.

The Tajan iron bridge, designed and constructed by our country's experts at a cost of 80 million rials, is 136.5 meters long, 5.5 meters wide, and 7 meters in height from the river bed. It has three 45-meter arches. The bridge, constructed according to agreements signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, will facilitate travel by the nationals of the two countries and traffic by vehicles carrying up to 45 tonnes of goods.

When the international Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway line is completed, the Central Asian countries and China will be connected to southeastern Asia and the Persian Gulf regional states via Iran.

Gas Agreement With Turkmenistan Viewed

LD2610112593 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—The morning English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' here Tuesday commented on Iran-Turkmenistan agreement on passing Turkmen gas pipelines through Iranian territory and said the only thing to be worried about in connection with the project's implementation is the "sluggish bureaucracy" in Iran's government organizations.

Following his 12-day tour of the Central Asian republics, Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Turkmen counterpart Saparmurat Niyazov signed the agreement in Ashgabad.

Referring to different aspects of the project, the editorial pointed to the extensive propaganda launched to "thwart the implementation of the present gas pipeline project and the future oil pipeline project with Iranian collaboration although the passage through the Iranian territory is the most logical and practical itinerary that could be selected for the pipelines."

The other alternative, added the paper, would involve the passage of the pipelines through various Central Asian countries and ultimately through Caucasia.

But those alternatives would "not only be costlier, they would also be much more risky enterprises in view of the lack of political stability in the transit countries," said the article. It noted that since there is still no prospect in sight for a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Caucasia, the gas and oil pipelines could be used as "political hostage in the intense rivalry among the republics."

"On the home front one word of caution to the concerned authorities and officials seem to be in order. The implementation of the above project does not only carry economic significance for the country, our correct and efficient work procedures, unencumbered by bureaucracy could serve as a pattern for all countries of the region," added the article.

"We do not have the problem of political instability which is plaguing the other countries, and all experts are in agreement that the project will not suffer on that account," it concluded.

Turkmenistan Warned Against Ties With West

NC2410065793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Continuing his visit to the Central Asian countries, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has arrived in Turkmenistan and met with Turkmen officials to discuss bilateral relations and international and regional problems. Cooperation in the field of gas and oil; ground, air, and sea routes; agricultural exchanges; and facilitating the movement of goods and passengers between Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran are among the most important issues in bilateral relations.

Turkmenistan, which is the southernmost country in Central Asia, has common borders with our country. Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan can be analyzed on three levels. First of all, because of our common borders, there are numerous possibilities for expanding bilateral economic and cultural activities. Common historic and cultural bonds pave the way for such relations.

Also, Turkmenistan is a bridge linking the other Central Asian republics and Iran, just as Iran can link Central Asia to the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The consolidation of Tehran-Ashgabat relations is significant because now that the former Soviet Union has disintegrated Western countries are trying to impose their economic policies on these countries, and a strong trade war is taking place among the Western countries to expand their influence in these areas. These are the conditions in which the Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to expand and consolidate relations with Turkmenistan and the other Central Asian countries—relations that mostly aim to help the unsettled economies in Central Asia to improve, without any expansionist objectives. In view of its oil and gas resources, Turkmenistan has attracted the attention of the Western countries more than any other republic. Thus, the Western countries' efforts to expand their presence in Turkmenistan are mostly aimed at plundering and pillaging its resources.

In the cultural field, Turkmenistan is part of the Islamic world, though it was separated from that culture for more than seven decades; and now the necessary grounds for returning it to its traditional identity should be prepared. The establishment of cultural channels and networks are among the initial steps that should be taken in this direction. Exchanges of students and scholars and the establishment of libraries and book exhibitions constitute the most important channels that should be used. Even though the initial grounds for establishing this link have been prepared, nevertheless efforts to strengthen it should continue.

In the final analysis, it should be said that in view of the fact that the objectives of the Western countries are expansionist and exploitive in nature, the Turkmenistan officials should be cautious in establishing relations with these countries and should pay more attention to expanding their relations with countries that do not have expansionist objectives but are interested in the progress and development of that newly independent republic.

Agreement on Transport Signed With Azerbaijan

LD2310200993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Iran and Azerbaijan today signed an agreement on road transport. With the signing of the agreement, the two sides have now reached an understanding regarding the transportation of cargo to a third country through their own soil, taking into account the interests of both parties, the Central News Units reports from Baku.

Kurdish Radio on Efforts To 'Crush' Kurds

NC2210122993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary: "The Iranian Armed Forces—A Means To Crush Our Country's Peoples"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Throughout the past 14 years, the Iranian armed forces and all its various units have continued to be used as a means to crush the justice-seeking movement of the people of Kordestan. During these 14 years, the clerical regime has waged an unjust war against the Kurdish people, which is still continuing. Tens of thousands of defenseless people in Kordestan have been martyred, and there is no place in Kordestan that has not been the target of the regime's heavy artillery. [passage omitted]

But instead of learning a lesson from the experience of the past 14 years and accepting Kordestan's realities, the regime is considering starting yet another wave of suppression and onslaughts against the people of Kordestan. A few days ago, the regime's interior minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, arrived in Sanandaj and announced that another special force is being organized to crush the Kordestan movement and that this force will be assigned the duty of ensuring Kordestan's so-called security.

Clearly the people are well aware what he means by Kordestan's security. The objective is to crush the just movement of the Kurdish people, who are demanding their legitimate human rights. It is clear that this plot by the regime is doomed to fail from the very beginning. During the past 14 years, the people of Kordestan have proven that they will not stop their struggles until their aspirations are fulfilled and that no army or force can stop them. Have the regime's forces not resorted to all possible plots and have they not perpetrated all possible crimes against the people of Kordestan during the past 14 years? Why, then, does the regime deem the formation of a new army to crush the Kurdish people to be necessary?

We are confident that this new force, too, will be brought to its knees by the iron will and determination of the people and that an end will be put to Besharati's pomposity.

Interior Minister's Plans Termed 'Futile'

NC2410083793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Last week, the clerical regime's interior minister, Besharati, paid a visit to the capital of Kordestan province, Sanandaj. Before his visit to Sanandaj, Besharati—who was recently assigned the post of interior minister in Rafsanjani's cabinet—told a news conference with domestic correspondents that with the implementation of a security plan, the coming [Iranian] year [beginning 21 March 1994] will be named the year of general security, and that the people will get the security they expect.

During his trip to Sanandaj, Besharati also said that a special force is to be formed in order to provide security throughout the country in general and in Kordestan in particular and that a total of 30,000 men are to be added to the law-enforcement forces. Whether Besharati told the people of Kordestan or not, it is crystal clear that all the people see how a major part of the national resources and incomes are being used to expand the forces of suppression and to purchase arms and other war materiel to crush the people. And this policy is being daily intensified.

A noteworthy question that comes to mind with 'Ali Mohammad Besharati's visit is: Apart from the problem that the interior minister describes as insecurity, did not the people of Kordestan province and Sanandaj have any other requests or problems for the interior minister to refer to and to promise to meet or solve? Were there no difficult problems in that city and in Kordestan that the regime's interior minister considered the regime's duty to solve? Why did the interior minister ignore all these problems pertaining to his ministry or affiliated departments and only refer to the so-called lack of security, which he alleged will be solved in the coming year? [passage omitted]

It is very clear that the interior minister's reference to the so-called insecurity in Kordestan referred to the existence of a vast, all-embracing, justice-seeking, and freedom-seeking movement that which the regime has been trying to weaken and destroy for 14 years, against which it has been hatching plots, the leaders of which it assassinates, and followers of which it crushes by various means. However, this movement continues and has not weakened.

Besharati—recently appointed interior minister—believes that during the last 14 years the regime's suppressive forces have not done their duty by perpetrating crimes and in crushing the people, especially by harassing the people of Kordestan to satisfy the regime's officials, and he believes that the thousands of bases and about 200,000 regime soldiers in Kordestan are insufficient to execute the regime's wish to brutalize the people of Kordestan. Thus, he threatens to augment the suppressive force and to

improve their conditions and benefits and supply more modern suppressive weapons so that they can be more brutal and pressure the people more, thus meeting some of the regime's wishes to crush the freedom-seekers.

In short, the only message that the interior minister's remarks conveyed to the people of Kordestan was that the armed forces will be increased and that the people will be crushed in the coming year. However, Besharati should realize that for the last 14 years no crimes and pressures have been spared by the regime's various forces—that is, the Pasdaran [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps, the armed forces, the gendarmerie, and the so-called strike forces—against the people of Kordestan; and if he believes that by augmenting his suppressive forces he will be able to crush the Kurdish people's movement and resistance, he too will see his beliefs frustrated like other regime officials who have often made similar remarks and even made promises to the regime, and who think that they have left no signs of counterrevolution. And he will be slapped in the face with the realities of Kordestan.

Pakistan

Defense Ministry Denies Forces on 'Red Alert'

BK2610113493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense has described as baseless and misleading reports appearing in a section of the Indian press that Pakistani forces have been put on red alert. He said our defense forces were engaged in normal activities and had not been put on any red alert.

Bhutto Sees 'Ploy' Behind Rao Talks Offer

BK2510151193 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 93 p 16

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 24: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her bilateral meetings with various heads of government in Cyprus, where she had gone to attend the Commonwealth Summit, sought their support for Pakistan's draft resolution on human rights which the government proposes to table in the UN in the middle of November.

According to a Foreign Office spokesman who briefed newsmen on board Prime Minister's aircraft while flying out of Cyprus, the Prime Minister expressed her skepticism about Mr. Narasimha Rao's letter in which he has invited her for bilateral talks on Kashmir.

She told the Prime Ministers of Britain, Bangladesh, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Gambia and Maldives that the letter of Rao appeared like a ploy to the increasing esculation of repression in the occupied Kashmir.

She also pointed out to them that the letter talks of "issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir" the phraseology used by another Rao letter earlier.

She said after the earlier letter also when talks were offered under the Simla agreement, the offer was brushed aside by saying that the main issue relating to Jammu and Kashmir is terrorism.

The British Prime Minister, who became interested in our draft resolution, wanted to see the text, a copy of which was subsequently sent to him through British Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Douglas Hurd.

The spokesman said that Pakistani Foreign Minister Farooq Leghari and Douglas Hurd also met to discuss British investments in Pakistan apart from the Pakistani resolution.

But, according to the spokesman Britain along with other EC countries so far have been non-committal. "They have neither said yes or no. They keep talking in Brussels, out obviously they are not very enthusiastic."

The operative part of the resolution asks the UN Commission on violation of human rights to go and investigate the cases of human rights violations in the Indian held Kashmir.

The spokesman said the Sri Lankan response to our Prime Minister's request for support to the resolution was that the Indians have passed them a message that they were willing to talk to Pakistan any time anywhere. But given the past experience, this offer also looked like a ploy the spokesman pointed out.

The Prime Minister when she met her Malaysian counterpart, Dr. Mahathir, she thanked him for the perceptible change in the Malaysian position on Kashmir. She thanked him for supporting the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir and for calling for talks between India and Pakistan based on UN resolution and Simla agreement.

She also briefed him about the induction of two Indian division. She emphasised that the international community, especially countries which have influence over India like the US and Britain, and regional countries must put pressure on India to show some bonafides about the situation, "because unless there is some signal that they have rethought their policy which so far has been only military options then we will never go ahead" "How can you negotiate where you have nearly half a million troops based in a place with a small population, where the ratio between the local population and Indian army is one to six "She asked Mahatir emphasising the point that a cooling off period was necessary for meaningful negotiations.

The other subject discussed between Ms Bhutto and Dr. Mahathir was Bosnia. He has proposed that arms embargo should be lifted and the oil producing countries should reduce production which would automatically push up the prices without causing any revenue losses to the producers.

According to the spokesman, John Major also brought up the issue of Bosnia and he was on the defensive.

Mr Major said a lot of his time and that of Hurd's is taken up on Bosnia. He give the usual argument that if the arms

embargo is withdrawn the UN's humanitarian aid would be stopped and thousands of people would die of hunger. The Prime Minister on her part expressed her serious concern on the matter and asked for new thinking on Bosnia.

Mr Major appreciated Pakistan's position on Bosnia both within the OIC and in Nonaligned Movement and tried to explain Britain's position in this regard with special reference to the criticism being levelled against his government.

Prime Minister Bhutto on Relations With U.S.

LD2510141993 London BBC Television Network in English 0815 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Interview with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by David Frost in Cyprus on 24 October; from the "Breakfast with Frost" program—recorded]

[Text] [Frost] I asked Benazir about Pakistan's strained relations with America—was there any chance that she would be able to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty within the five years of her office, or would that be political suicide? We found her reply more upbeat than we expected.

[Bhutto] The Clinton administration has a more even-handed approach to the question of nuclear nonproliferation, and that is a position we can work with. I am an optimist, I believe in five years India and Pakistan should together sign the nonproliferation treaty, and we can do it if we all work together for it.

[Frost] And that is the key really, that you can only do it alongside India, because otherwise the other would have the advantage?

[Bhutto] Well, we can do it alongside India, we cannot do it unilaterally, but we do want to address the question of suspicions, regarding our peaceful nuclear program and set those at rest. Because if we do not do that, our relations with the United States will continue to be strained.

[Frost] Given what you have just said, how soon do you think it might be realistic for the United States to resume military and economic aid, which it chopped off?

[Bhutto] Well it is not going to happen overnight. The aid has been diverted, and the question of removing the suspicions is going to take some time. I would like the United States to give us a breathing space of six to nine months to start the whole process going, to even out our relations again. I am sure it can be done. Everyone in Pakistan wants to see Pakistan out of the isolation that it is in today. And the key to ending that isolation begins with mending our relations with the United States.

[Frost] Obviously, Asif [Ali Zardari—Bhutto's husband] is a member of your team at home, do you plan for him to have a part in the government as well?

[Bhutto] Well, Asif is a member of the National Assembly, and it is wonderful having him in the National Assembly because he can sit around talking with the rest of the [word indistinct] while I am busy with government work, but he is not interested in being in the government, and I am not interested in him being in the government. I want a small cabinet, an efficient cabinet, and I want to give the impression that this a government free of family influence, so my mother is not going to be in the cabinet and my husband is not going to be in the cabinet, and my brother is not going to be in the cabinet. My brother has a long way to go, he has made some mistakes in his life, but it is never too late to learn. I look forward to the day when he can return and learn how politics are played in Pakistan.

[Frost] And you hope that day might come in the not too distant future?

[Bhutto] I hope so. He has to clear his name. He has to clear his name at the bar of public opinion, and before a court of law. I do not think any favoritism would be good for him or for me. As prime minister, I have to abide by the oath I have taken to uphold the Constitution, but by standing before a court of law, and before the public opinion he will prove himself. That is the best way.

[Frost] In the meantime, it must be like in the election, pulling your mother in two directions at once?

[Bhutto] Well, in Pakistan, I think my brother was always my mother's little boy, so I am not surprised.

[Frost] How would you say today, let us talk about the army in Pakistan. Who is more powerful in Pakistan today, the government or the army?

[Bhutto] Well, if the army wanted to be the army it would certainly be more powerful, but they have decided and taken a conscious decision—this is a decision with the chief of army staff and his colleagues—and the other services have taken, that we want to stay out of politics because good government means a democratic government, and if Pakistan is to take it's place with the world, then it has to do so with dignity. That dignity comes through democracy. So, they have taken a conscious decision to remain neutral, withdraw from the political field, and allow the Constitution to work. And I really respect them for that because now the politicians are on test, the army is not interfering, and we must live up to the expectations of the people. And if we do not, then I think the people will lose trust in politicians.

[Frost] You favor obviously a political solution in Kashmir, but I mean, what could you find that India and Pakistan could agree on, what solution?

[Bhutto] I think the Indians must pull out the armored divisions from the valley; in the face of repression there is going to be no solution. And it is whether India wanted to do it bilaterally with us in accordance with UN resolutions or whether India would like to have a third party involved. What we are interested in seeing is a pullout of Indian troops from the valley and an election in which the people of (Jammu) and Kashmir are allowed to express their sentiments, what they want, and depending on what they want, India must decide if they are going to respect the wishes of the people or are they going to use force. I do not

think India can go on just pouring men and weapons into the valley. At some time, the realization has to come that this cannot go on.

[Frost] What are the personal notes, as it were, that you have written to yourself, of the lessons you learned last time, that you will do differently this time?

[Bhutto] One of the lessons that we have drawn is to have a smaller cohesive cabinet. The second I have decided is not to give in to blackmail and pressures by parliamentarians. If it comes to that I will just go to the people and say they are not allowing me to function. And the third, I have decided that the key is really the economy, so instead of trying to mop out political fires and threats as they arise, I have got to concentrate on the economy, put it on track, so at the end of the day, the people of Pakistan can say—this was a government that delivered.

Saudi King To Intercede for Islamabad in U.S.

BK2510150593 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Oct 93 p 1

[M. Ziauddin report]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 24: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is likely to "intercede on Pakistan's behalf on some of the issues we have with the US" when the monarch would be visiting Washington in about three months time, a Foreign Office spokesman told journalists on board the Prime Minister's aircraft flying back home from the three- day three-country visit.

The Saudi King gave an indication to this effect during his 65- minute meeting with Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto held during her visit to Saudi Arabia.

During the talks, the King reaffirmed his government's full support for the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"He particularly asked about the third option, but the Prime Minister explained that the third option was not a part of the original settlement whereby India was partitioned, the spokesman said.

The Prime Minister thanked the monarch for his support for the Kashmir issue.

She said there was a time when the Indians would not talk about Kashmir and quoted some incidents when they tried to create the impression that Kashmir was their internal matter. In this context according to her the letter of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao inviting her for bilateral talks on issues concerning Kashmir heralded a change in the Indian position.

She told the Saudi monarch that a cooling off period was necessary before negotiations could start.

"The Indian troops must withdraw from the occupied territory and the people there be allowed full autonomy so that when they exercise their right of self-determination the conditions there are conducive for a free and fair plebiscite," the Prime Minister was quoted to have told the Saudi monarch.

The Saudi monarch offered full support to the Pakistani leader on "all international issues and economic matters" and kept on repeating during the conversation that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were one country and that she was like his younger sister.

Twice he asked the Pakistani Prime Minister to come to Saudi Arabia for a week-long or 10-day official visit and tour the entire length and breadth of the country "to see for yourself" the progress his country has made during his rule.

And on his own, he offered to visit Pakistan and the Prime Minister promptly formalised the gesture by extending an official invitation to him to come to Pakistan at his convenience.

"It was an unusual meeting because the monarch who usually listens to his guests spoke for most of the time briefing Ms Bhutto on the various development projects which he has taken in hand for his people, especially for women who he said were coming up in all spheres of life in the kingdom," the spokesman said.

Also unusual was the fact that the King himself brought up the issue of Kashmir and discussed with Ms Bhutto various options available for the resolution of the problem.

According to the spokesman, during the meeting there was also a lot of reminiscences. The King went back to the Prime Minister's father, his relationship with late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and recalled the events of that period and the fact that he had interceded for the late Prime Minister.

He said that he saw a reflection of her father in her and added: "I am there to support you. I am like your brother."

The spokesman said the King talked specifically about the engineering feat whereby water from Red Sea is brought out through tunnels, desalinated and then pumped to Makkah and Taif. He was very proud of this engineering feat.

The Prime Minister on her part thanked the monarch for receiving her at such a short notice which she said was a great honour and that she would be relying on his wisdom and his sagacity.

"This is a difficult assignment I have taken over and I would be relying on you for help and advice."

The Saudi King himself came out to see the Pakistani leader off at the conclusion of the meeting despite Ms Bhutto's insistence that this gesture was not necessary as "I am like your daughter."

The Pakistani Prime Minister was informed of the King's desire to meet her when she was about to board her plan at Jeddah after performing Umrah for Abu Dhabi where she had a dinner appointment with the ruler, Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-Nyhan.

When the Saudi King came to know about this dinner appointment, he talked to the Abu Dhabi ruler personally on telephone and had the dinner delayed by about two hours.

Editorial Urges 'Fresh Perspective' From U.S.

BK2510113893 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 25 Oct 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pak-U.S. Ties"]

[Text] An exclusive report published in this paper yesterday indicates that Clinton Administration is sending a high-level delegation to Pakistan early next month to arrest the deterioration in relations between Pakistan and US.

Whether the delegation will achieve a dramatic breakthrough during its parleys is very much in doubt, but we in Pakistan have every reason to feel mistreated and cold shouldered by a former friend and ally of the last four decades. A majority of our citizens is of the opinion that this nation has been exploited by Americans to promote their designs during the days of super-power confrontation. We made immense sacrifices at the cost of our national interests to advance geo-political aims of the Western alliance but as soon as the period of confrontation ended, the US ditched its close ally and friend on a series of palpably unfair and untenable pretexts. The stark truth is that Americans are behaving this way because they think they do not need us anymore. Therefore, the wise men from Washington who intend to honour us with their visit ought to clear their minds on the issue. Of course, the American diplomats will state this basic fact differently in a convoluted way, but that is the focal point of American endeavours in this region at present.

Washington is using Pakistan's nuclear programme as an excuse (which is baseless, any way) for its hostility towards us. The nuclear controversy which has been raging for quite some time has generated a lot of best but also some light. It has now become obvious to the strategists of the West that Pakistan's retention of nuclear option is wholly innocuous in military terms. And the US knows it very well. The balance of conventional military power is clearly in favour of India in the sub-continent, and the only way to stop it from invading Pakistan is to make aggression as costly as possible. We need every penny to invest in our social sector, Which is one of the most neglected in the entires world.

A curious twist in our relationship with the US has come with the accusation that Pakistan is a fundamentalist state. This is also a figment of Washington's imagination in which popular prejudice and historical distortion have played no little part. Western culture has ingrained suspicion and hostility toward the world of Islam which the policy makers seize upon when it suits their conventience. However, the recent elections in Pakistan have convincingly shown that political religious parties stand nowhere in our polity. Both the mainline parties advocate liberal reform, which firm belief in democracys, basic freedoms and human rights.

The high-level delegation, if it wants to have meaningful dialogue, must remove these blinkers and look at the entire situation from a fresh perspective. They must endeavour to find out how in the post Cold-war era the two nations can re-establish their ties on the basis of equality, mutual respect and common interests.

Spokesman: 'Peaceful' Nuclear Program To Continue

BK2510142793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has said its peaceful nuclear program will continue. A spokesman of the Foreign Office said in Islamabad today that the prime minister's remarks relating to the country's nuclear policy have not been correctly reported. Commenting on its national press reports about the address to the nation by Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the spokesman said she had clearly stated that Pakistan will continue to pursue its peaceful nuclear program. The spokesman further stated that Pakistan has no atomic weapons nor has the intention of manufacturing them and that Pakistan remains committed to international and regional nuclear nonproliferation. He emphasized Pakistan's willingness to enter into any bilateral or regional arrangement for achieving an equitable and nondiscriminatory nonproliferation regime for South Asia. He said Pakistan would continue with its efforts to ensure that South Asia remains free of nuclear weapons.

Parliament To Sponsor Resolution on Kashmir

BK2510162793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The federal cabinet today reviewed the grave situation created by gross human rights violations by Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir with particular reference to the siege of the holy Hazratbal shrine. The meeting decided that a resolution will be moved in the joint session of parliament condemning Indian atrocities and reiterating Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue. Minister for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Sher Afghan had been directed to approach all political parties represented in Parliament to secure unanimous support for such a resolution. The resolution will be drafted by the foreign office.

According to informed sources, the members of the cabinet were briefed about the latest situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The cabinet members expressed indignation over the recent events in the valley and agreed with the prime minister's view that international opinion should be mobilized against human rights violations and escalating atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Sources said that the prime minister has also directed the foreign office to step up efforts for international mobilization of opinion in favor of the right of self-determination for Kashmiris.

Strike Held to Protest Siege at Hazratbal

BK2410113693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK], Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, has appealed to the world leaders to effectively play their role to persuade Indian Government to lift the siege of Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. In telegrams to them, he said the siege of the shrine has climaxed the Indian repression against the people in the held valley. This has sent waves of shock and anger across the world, particularly the Islamic world.

In occupied Kashmir, a strike against the continued siege and desecration of Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar and killing of Kashmiri people is being observed today. According to reports, traffic was off the roads and streets of Srinagar and other towns in the held valley wore deserted look. The Indian troops are patrolling the streets.

The 47th founding day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir government is being observed today throughout AJK and by Kashmiris living in Pakistan and abroad. In Muzaffarabad, a parade was held on the occasion. Addressing the parade, the AJK president, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, said the siege of dargah [shrine] Hazratbal is a challenge for the world conscience and civilized countries should exert pressure on India to lift it. He appreciated raising of Kashmir issue by the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, at the Commonwealth summit in Cyprus.